The Bug Boy

HINO Horror 2

日野日出志

Hideshi Hino

COCORO BOOKS

The Bug Boy

Hino Horror #2

日野日出志

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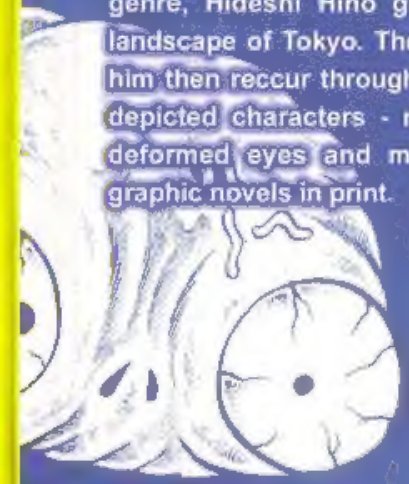
The Bug Boy

From the master of Japanese horror manga comes a frightening tale of rejection and revenge!

Sanpei is bullied at school and mistreated at home. His only real friends are his pets. But when he gets stung by a strange insect, Sanpei's life changes forever! Transformed into a huge poisonous bug, he escapes to discover the world outside. There he finds only more hatred, and eventually he returns to exact a terrifying revenge.

The Bug Boy is the second title in the all-new horror manga series **Hino Horror**. Recognized in Japan as a master of his genre, Hideshi Hino grew up in the immediate post-war landscape of Tokyo. The widespread destruction that struck him then reccur throughout his work, as do the grotesquely depicted characters - many tormented by twisted spines, deformed eyes and mishapen bodies. He has over 150 graphic novels in print.



This book reads from right to left

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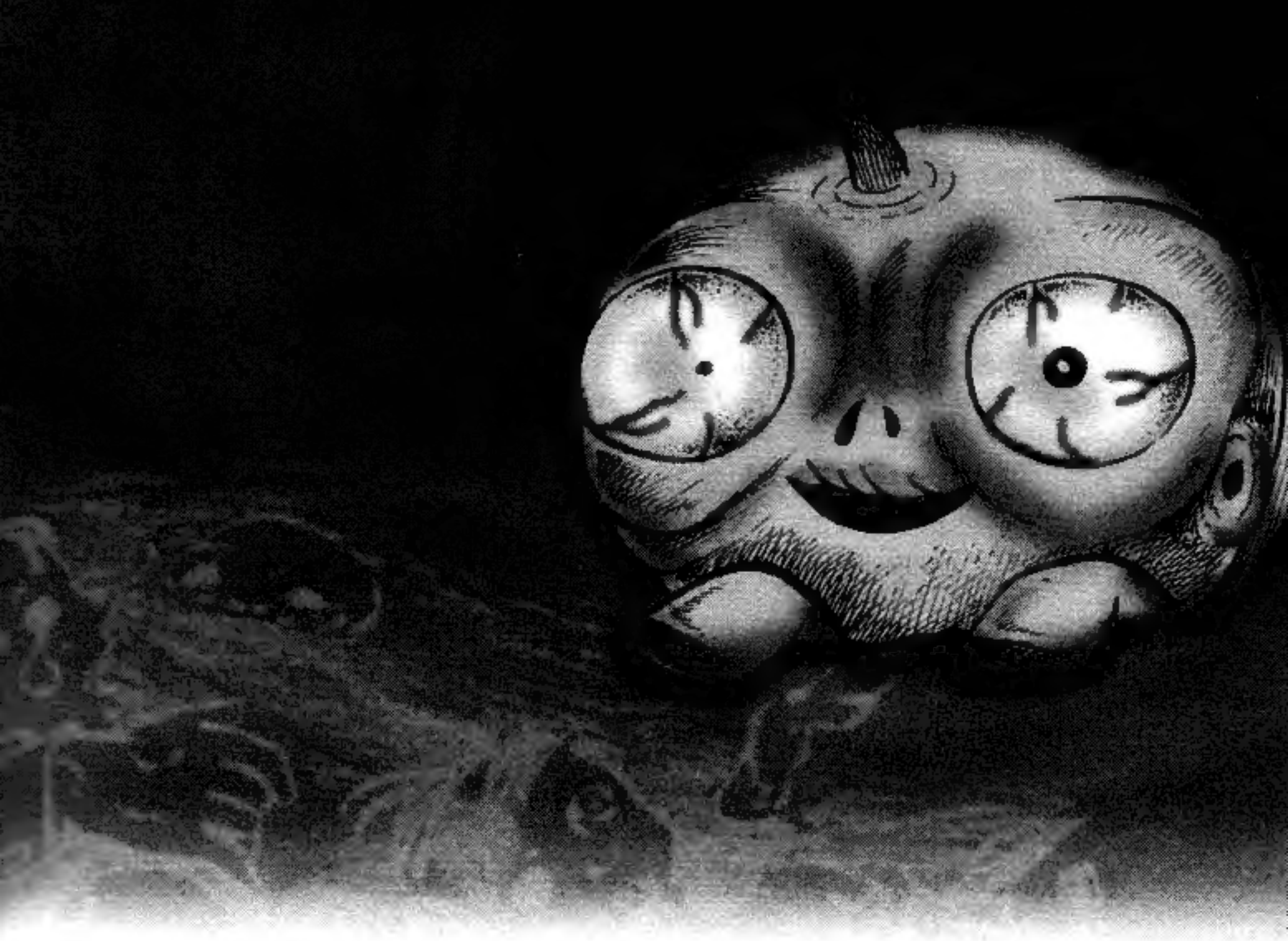
GRAPHIC NOVEL

毒虫小僧

The Bug Boy



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Hino Horror #2

Story and art by Hideshi Hino

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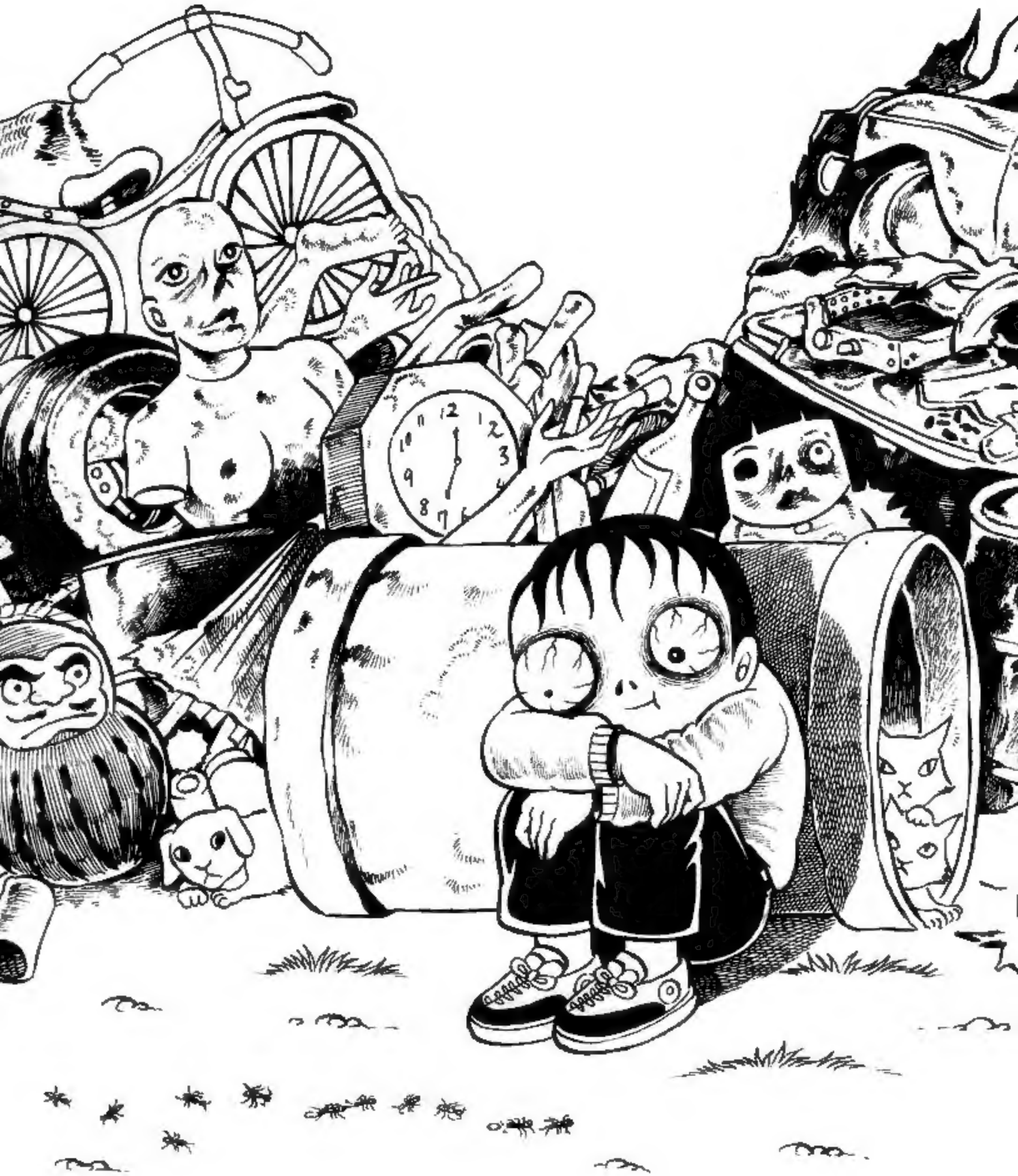
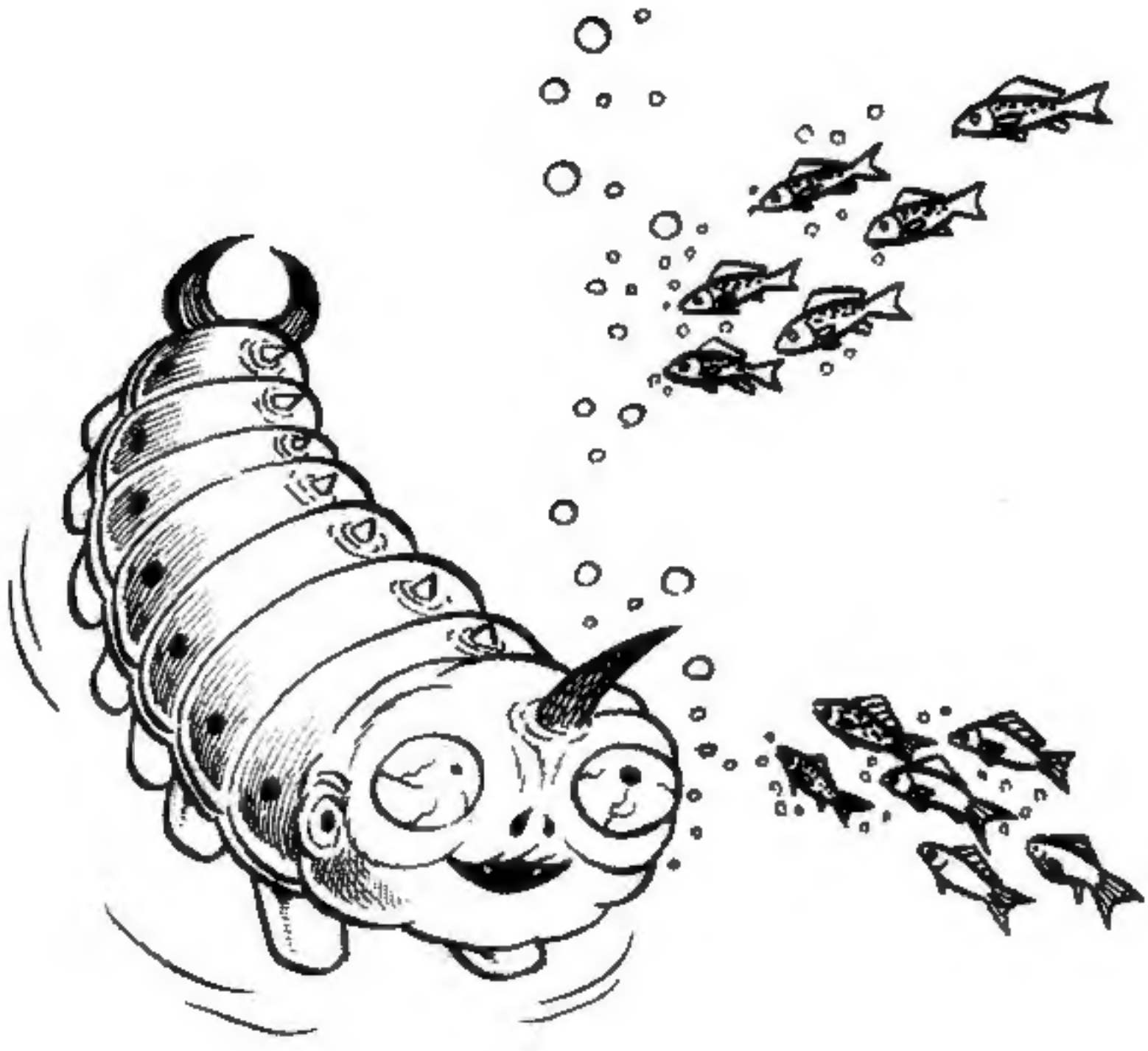
This is the sad and horrifying tale of a
boy with a terrible affliction.

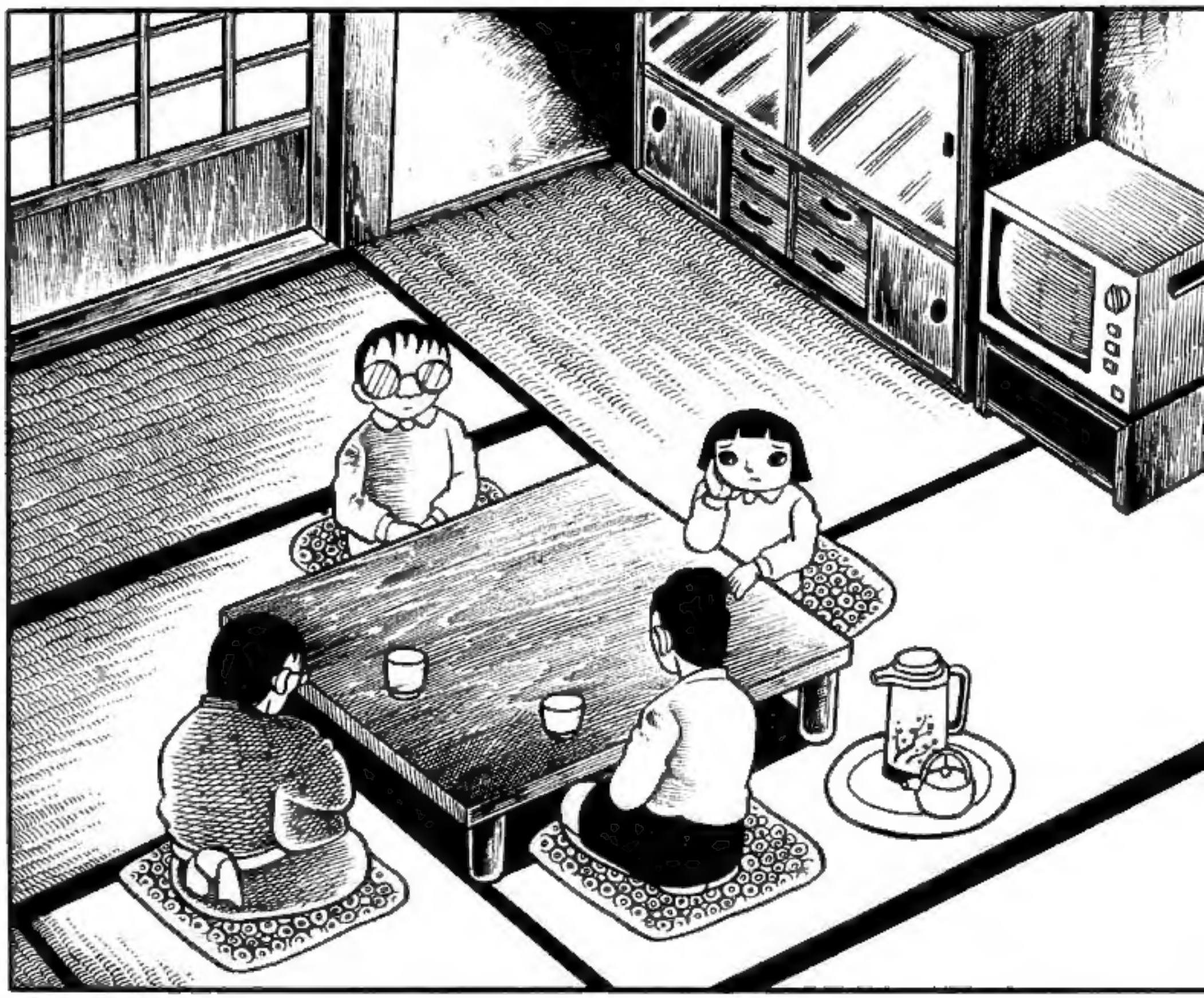


The Bug Boy



The Groan

Hinomoto Taro Residence



Why has this happened to us?! Somebody tell me why...

I'm worried...this time I'm really worried.

I feel so sorry for him...

And tomorrow is the new school term...

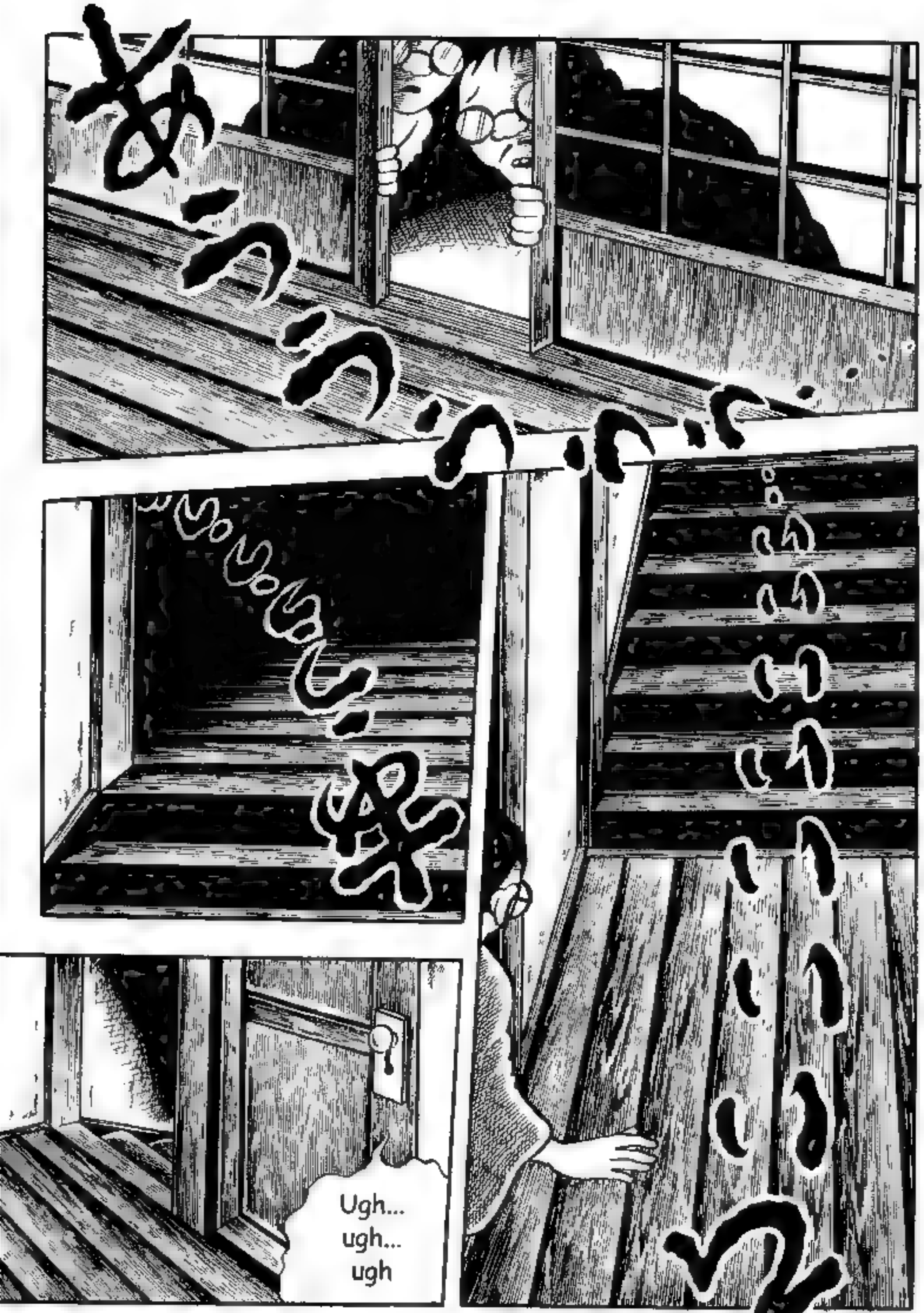
ああああ……

But you know there's nothing we can do about it...

Oh no, don't say it's happening again...

I've got my high school entrance exams next year. How can I study with all this going on?

I'm scared, mama. I'm so scared...


Ugh...
ugh...
ugh

This strange and terrible affliction all began...

When he was stung by a huge, red bug...

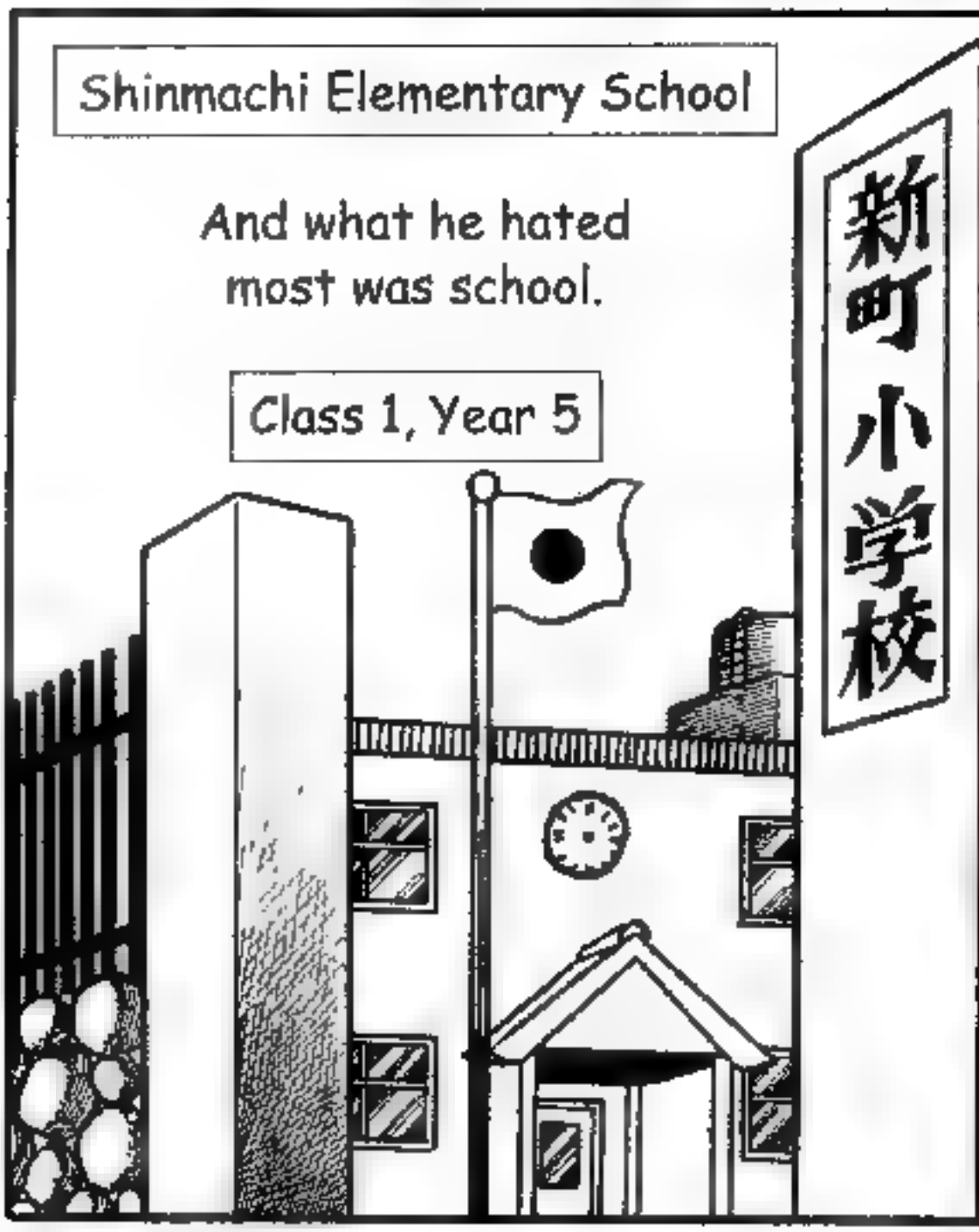
The Wimp

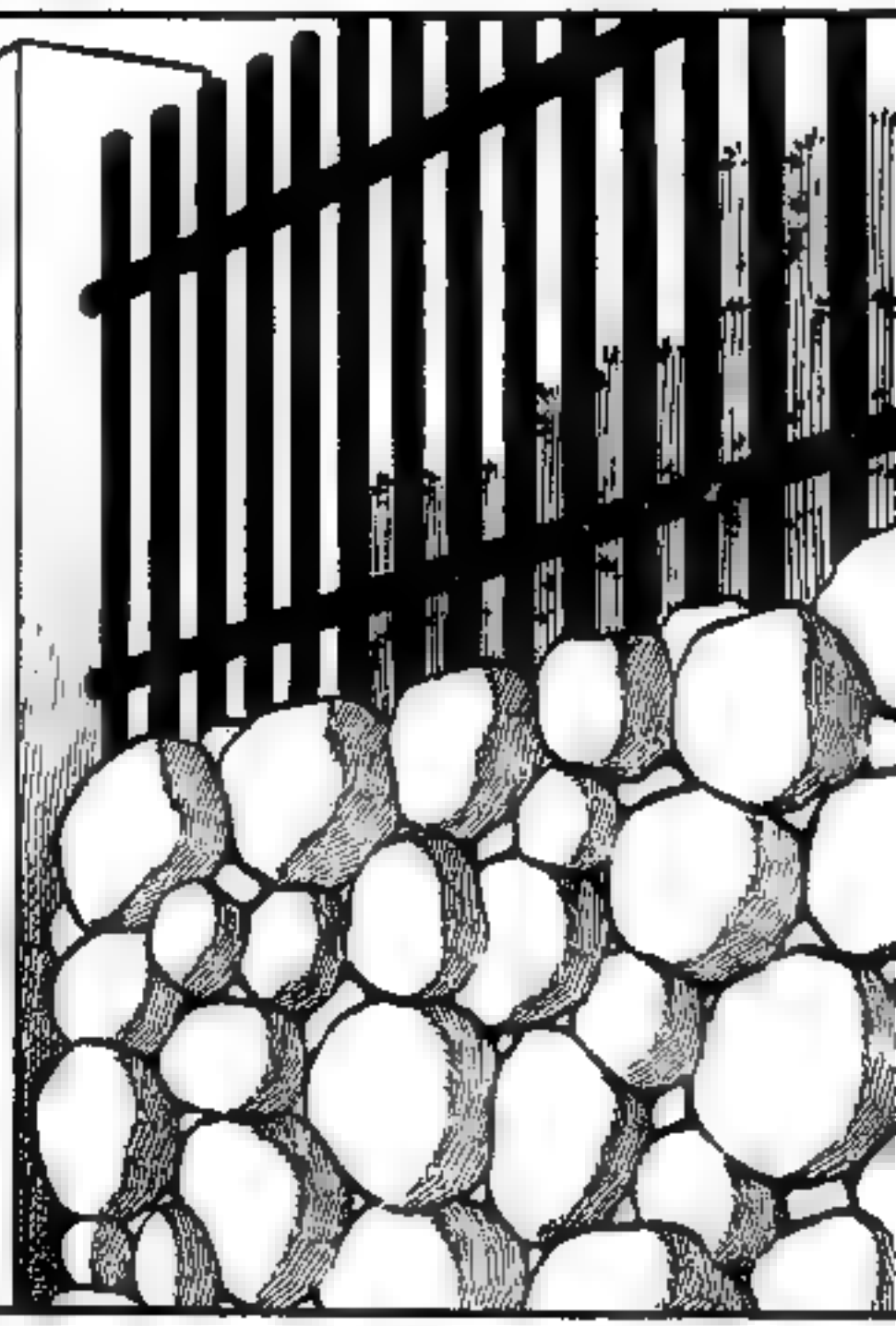
His name was Sanpei Hinomoto
He was a sickly child who
could do nothing right...

Shinmachi Elementary School

And what he hated
most was school.

Class 1, Year 5





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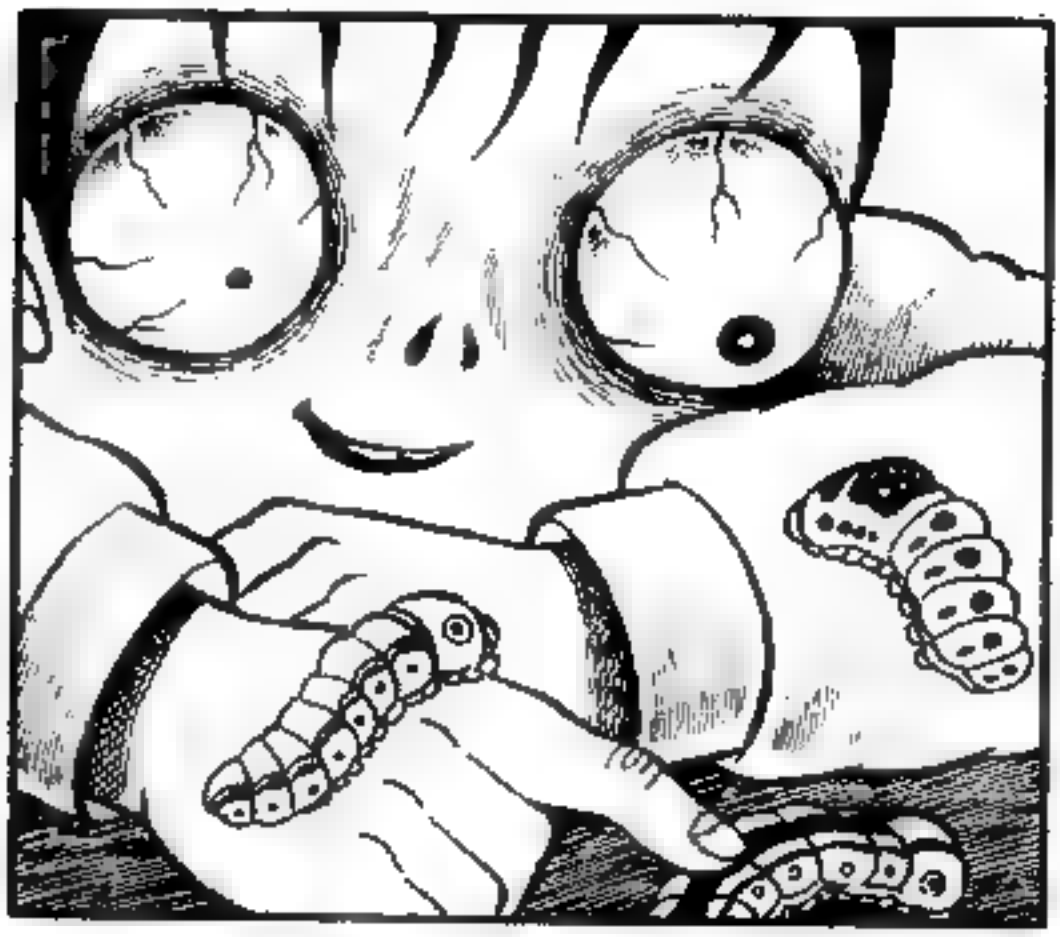

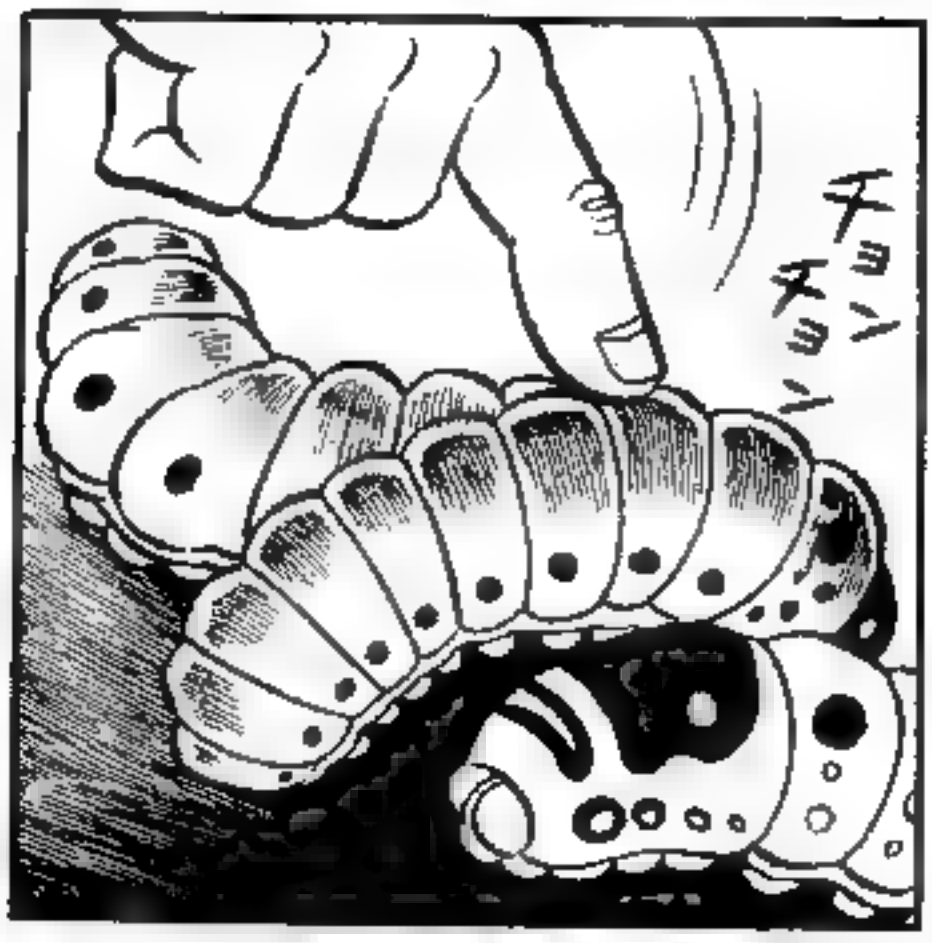
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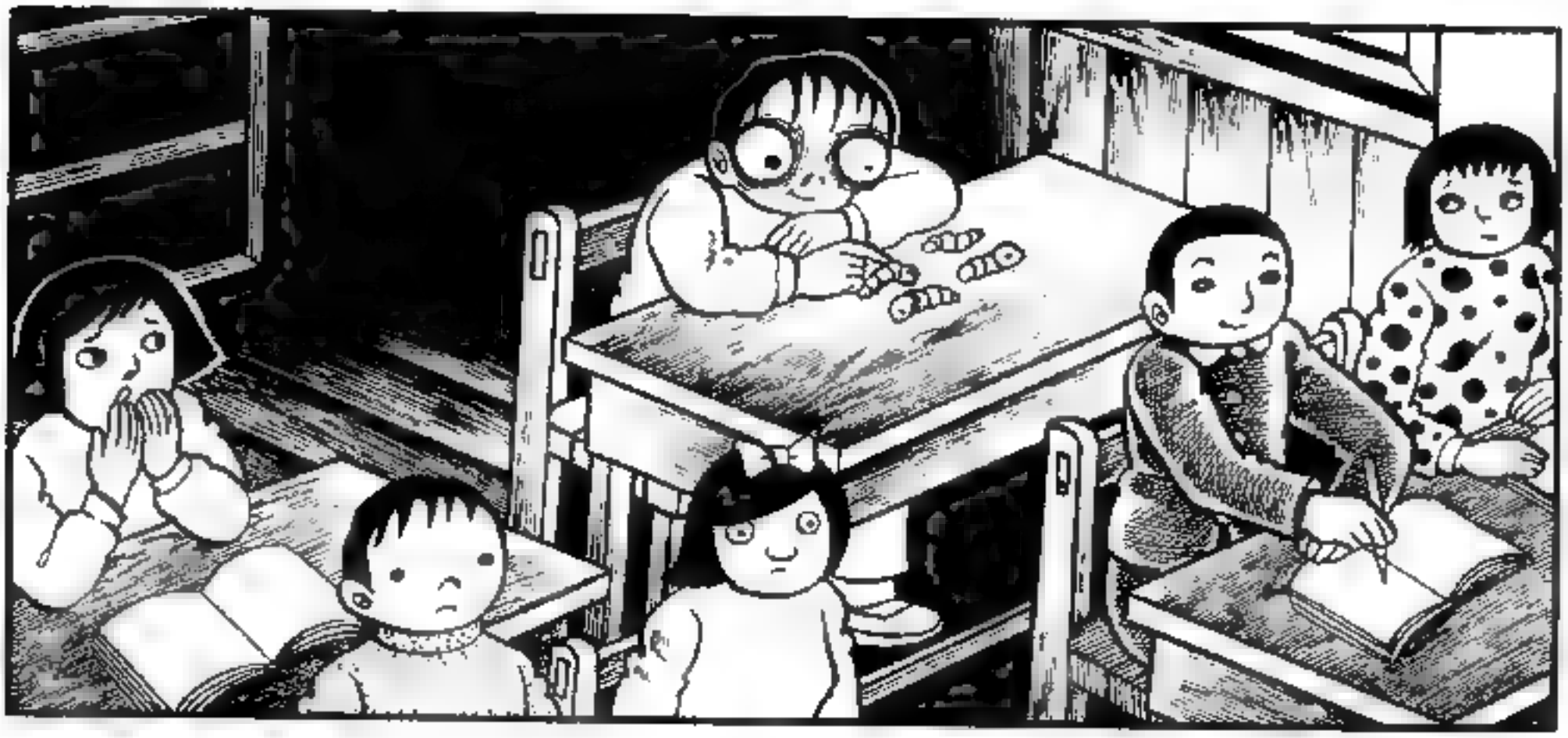
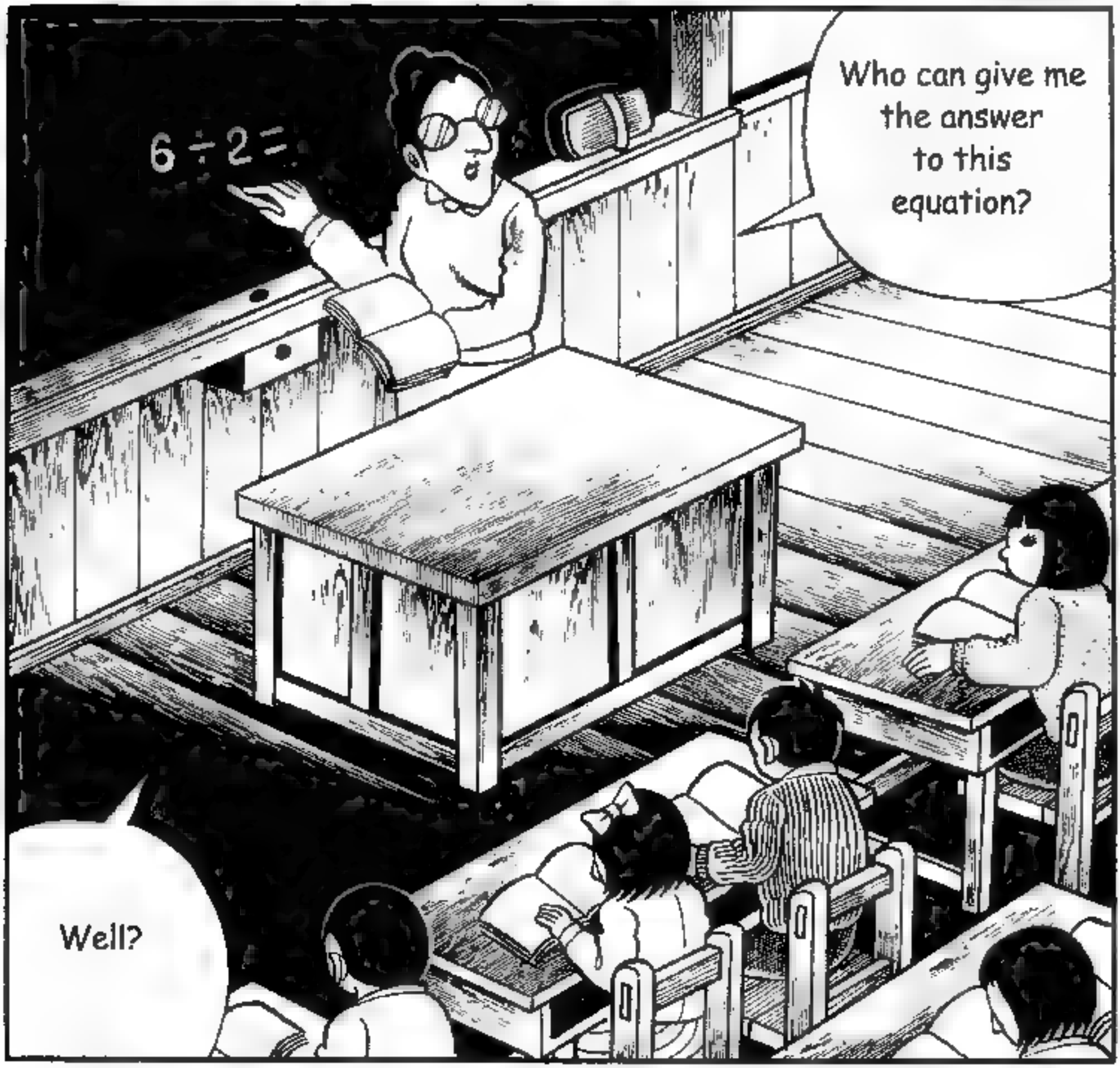
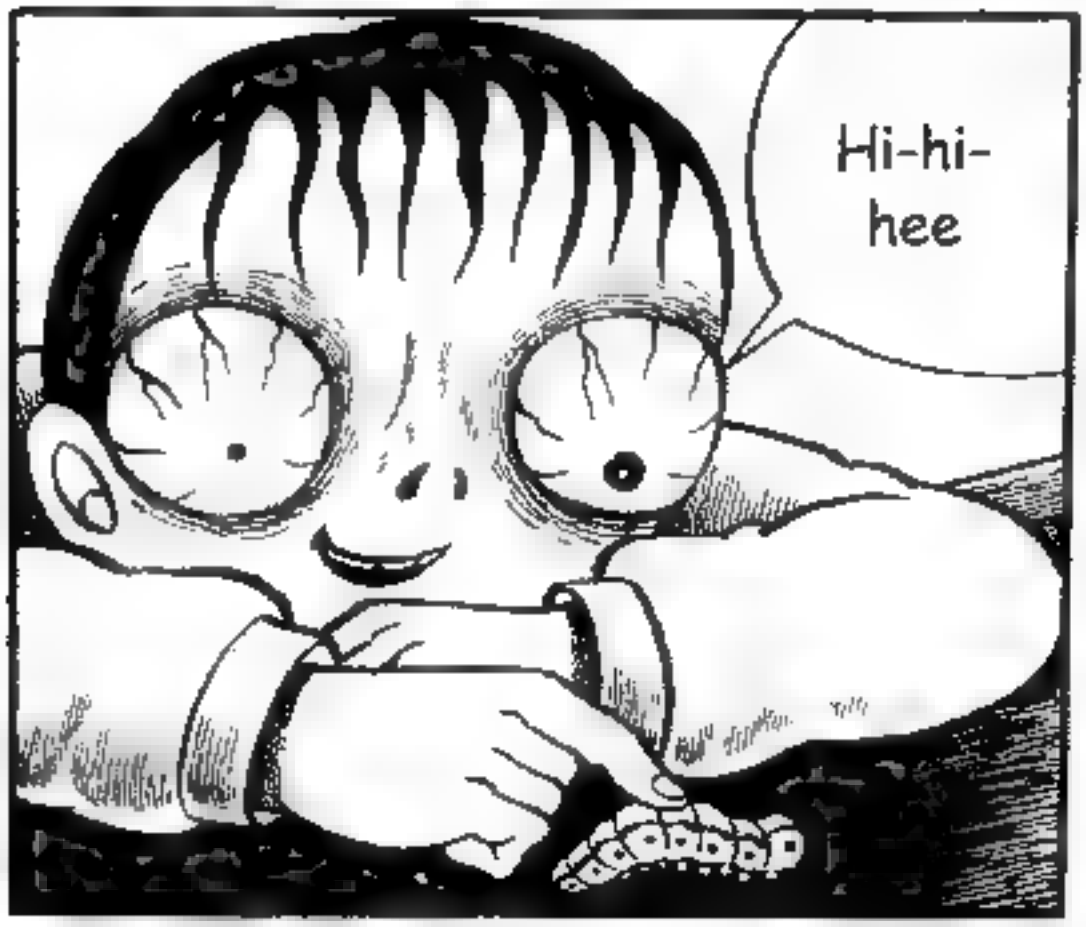
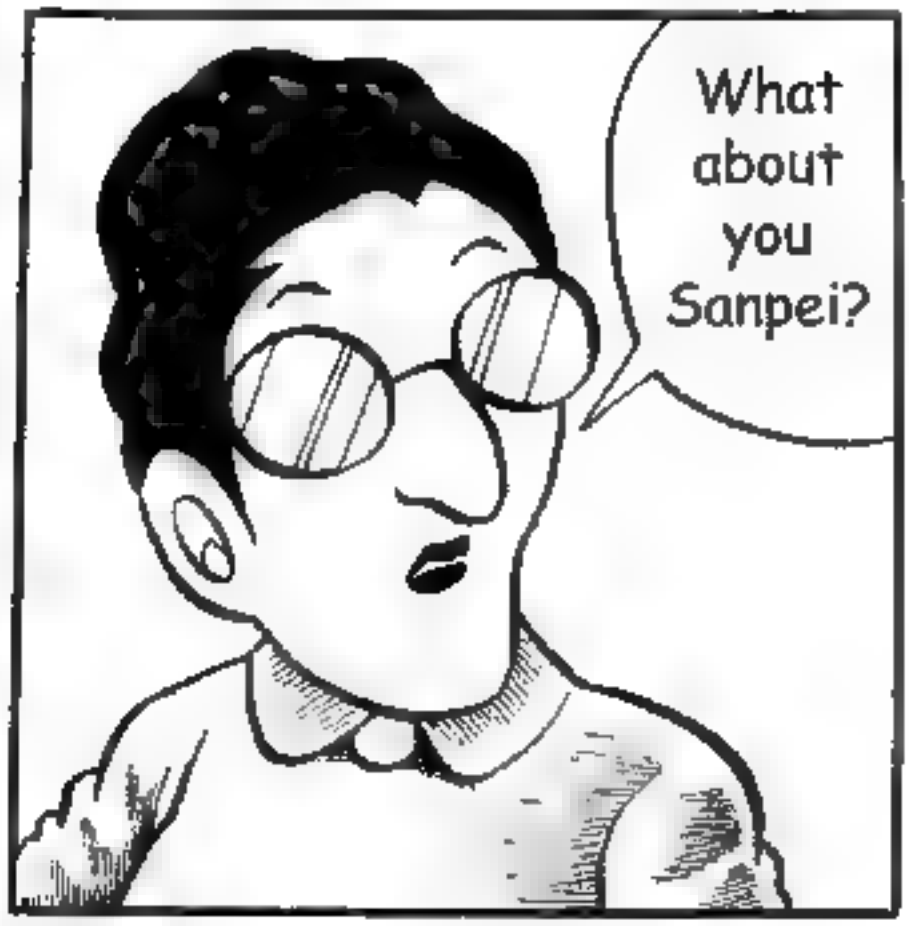



6÷2=
Who can give me the answer to this equation?
Well?

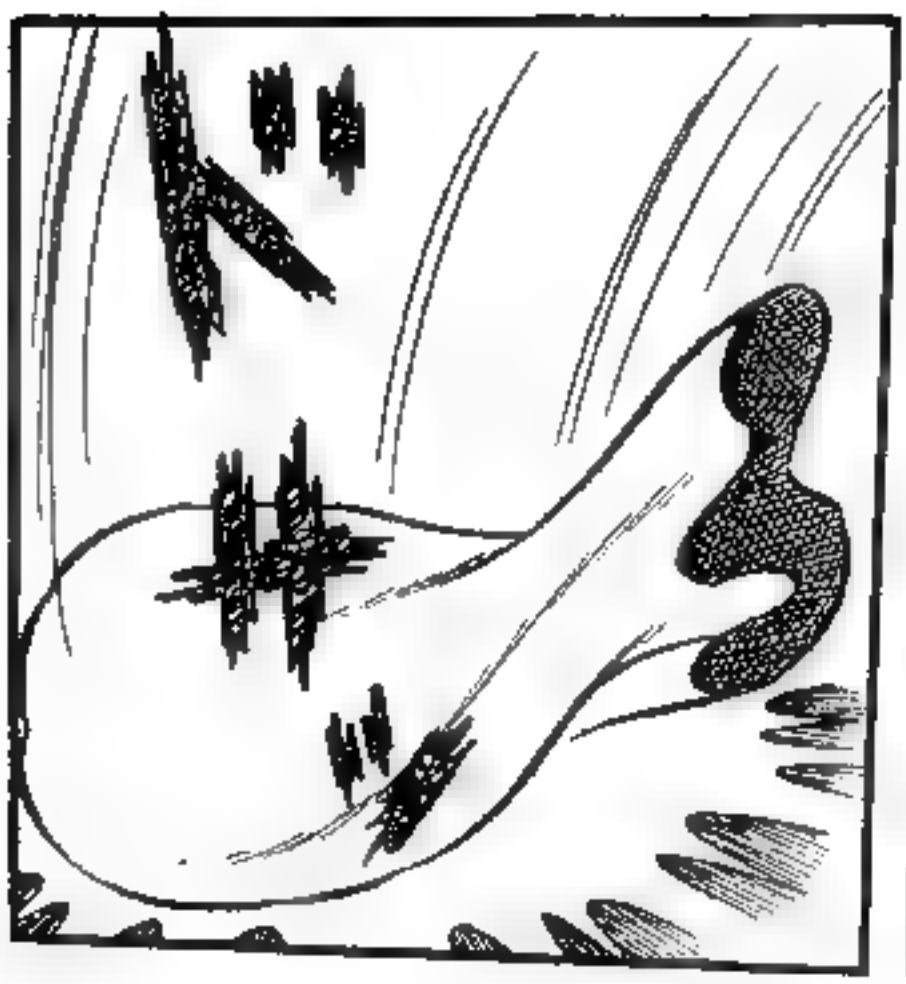

Hi-hi-hee

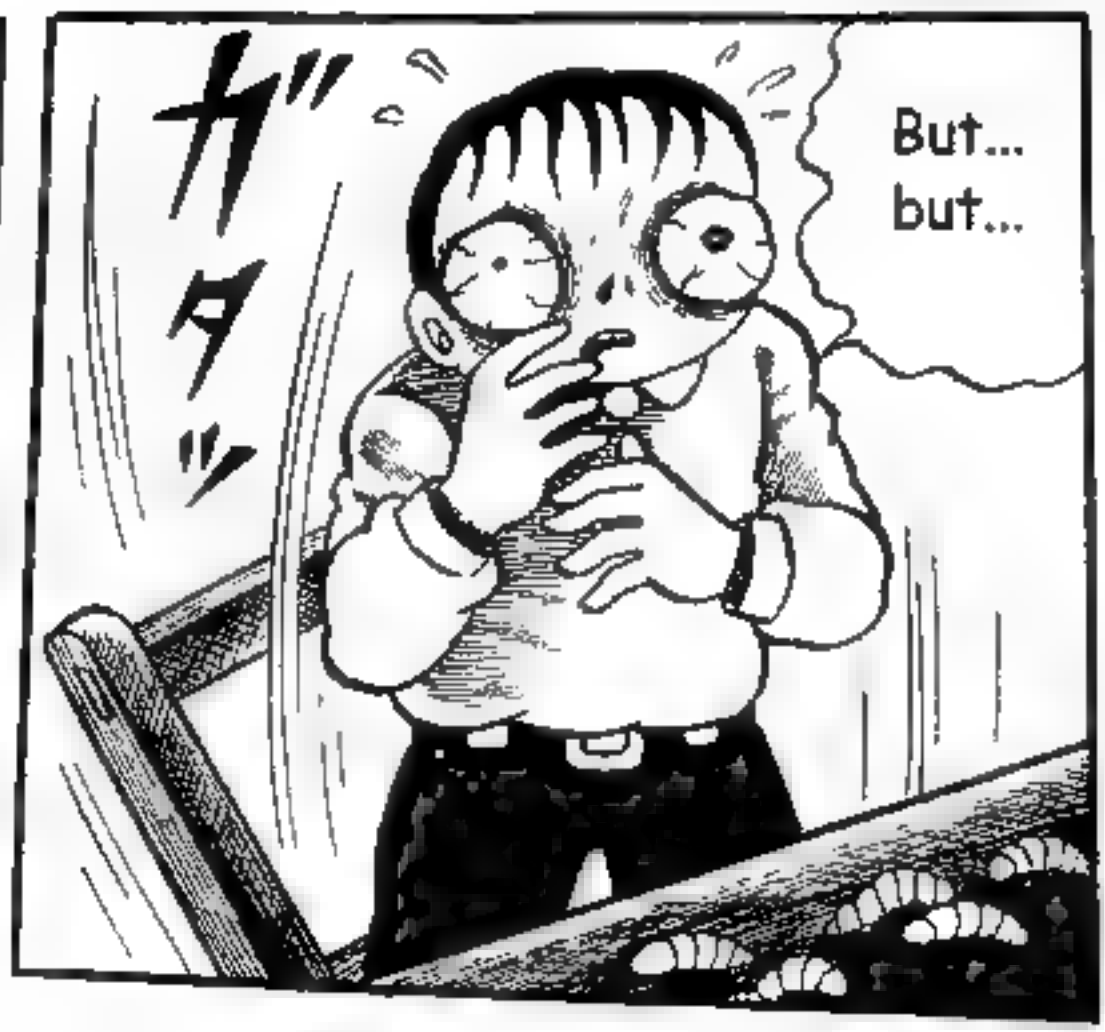

What about you Sanpei?

Right! If you won't answer then you're going to have to learn the hard way!

What have you been doing all lesson, boy?! If you continue like this you're going to get straight Fs!

Aaaagh!

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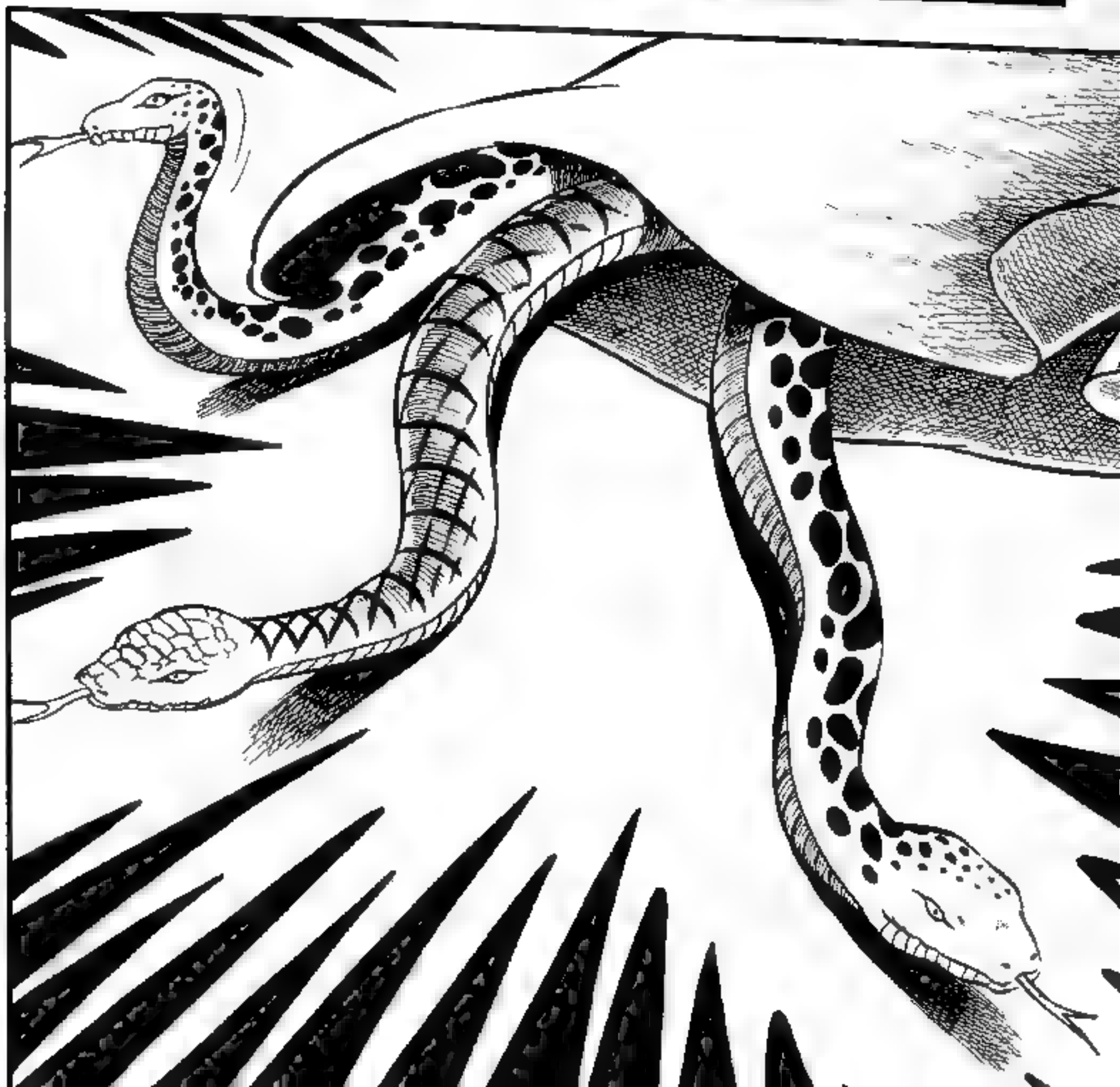


Muuwaaaaa!!!

Oh no! Miss has fainted!! And she's frothing at the mouth!!

Oh...

フ゛ク ク

Uuuugh! Slimy snakes!!

I don't care how much you like creepy crawlies. You don't bring them into school!!

If you spend the whole lesson playing you're going to get straight Fs! Do you understand?! And why is it always snakes and caterpillars? Is there something wrong with you boy?

ワナ ワナ

KO

You understand?!!

I want you to stay here and think seriously about what you did today.

And that didn't go down well at school.

Sanpei had a strange fascination with creepy crawlies...

Okay, everybody get in line!

For Sanpei, there was only one thing worse than studying. And that was sports.

Hey! Freak boy's next.

Okay, next!!

ゲチャッ

どたっ

どたっ

What a loser!

ヒヒ…

ケラケラ

ハハハ

ハハハ

Right.
Grab the
bar and
swing round.

くるり

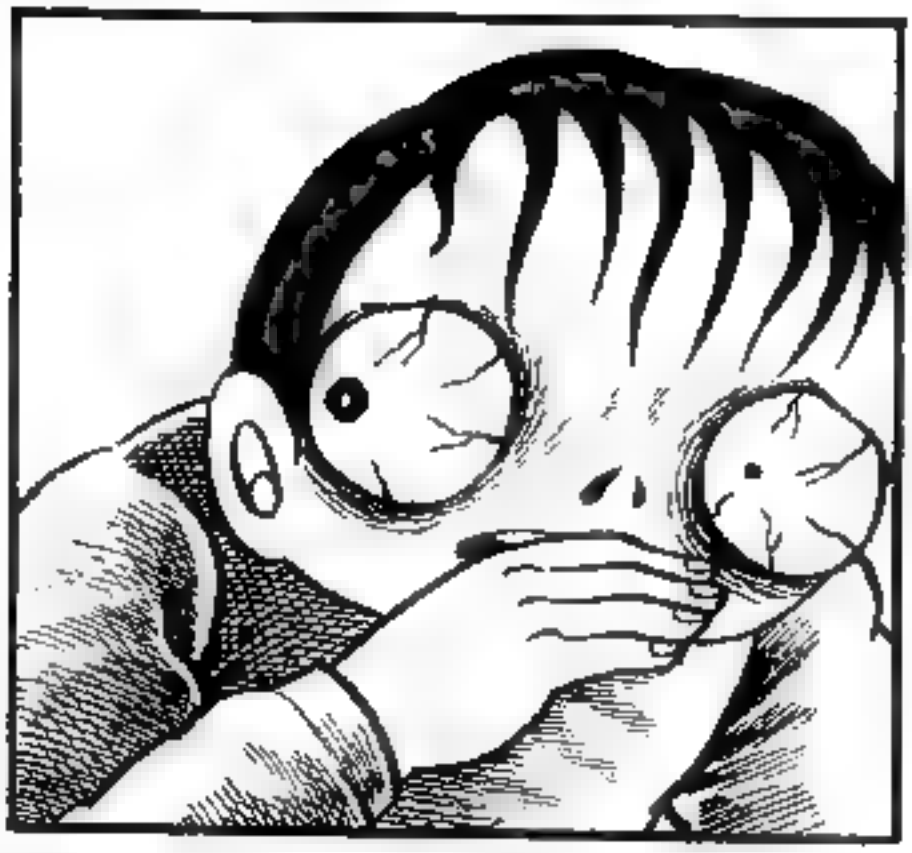
Good.

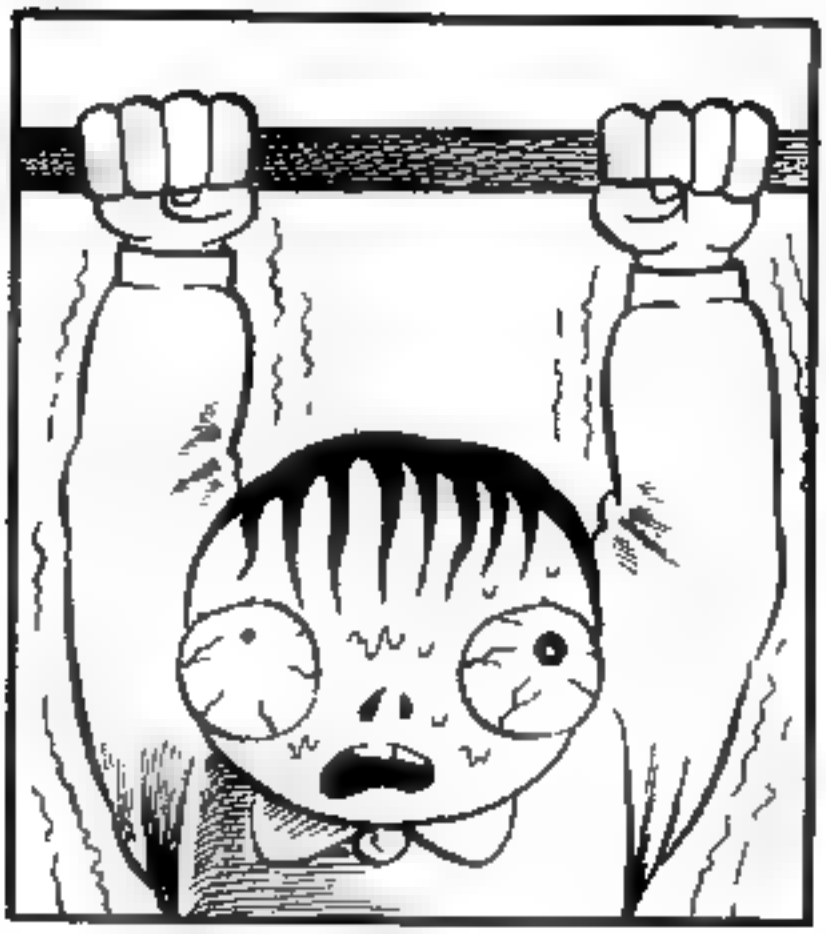
さっ!!

Here...we...
g-g-g-go...

I'll tell you what. You just "hang" around here until the lesson ends. Gottit?

You're the one that brought the bugs and snakes to school and scared the hell outta your teacher, aren't you.





ヒヒヒ

That freak just can't do anything right. Hee hee hee.

Even during school break none of the other children would play with Sanpei.

He would find a corner of the playground away from the other kids and stare up into the sky or watch the ants crawling around his feet.

He gives me the creeps! He's so ugly!

What's he looking over here for!?

What d'ya think he's thinking about?

Look at Hinomoto. He's always alone.

What should I do if he jumps on me?!

ドドドド

How disgusting!

I think he must fancy one of us.

Wotta you trying to say?! That I'm ugly?!

Don't worry about that. I can't imagine anyone wanting to come after you!

Ah!!

Sanpei also suffered on his way to and from school. Always the same three boys were waiting for him...

ヒヒヒ

ケケケ

へへへ

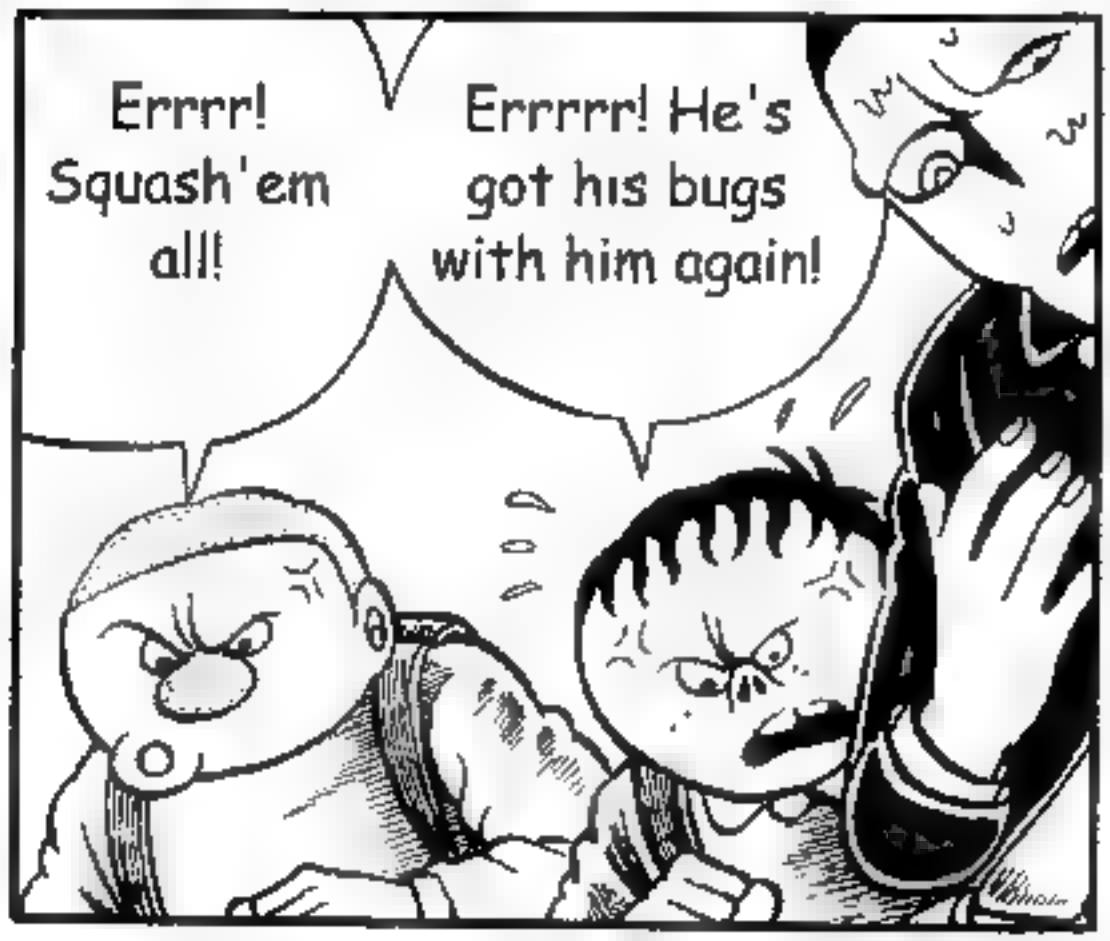
What's the matter freak boy?

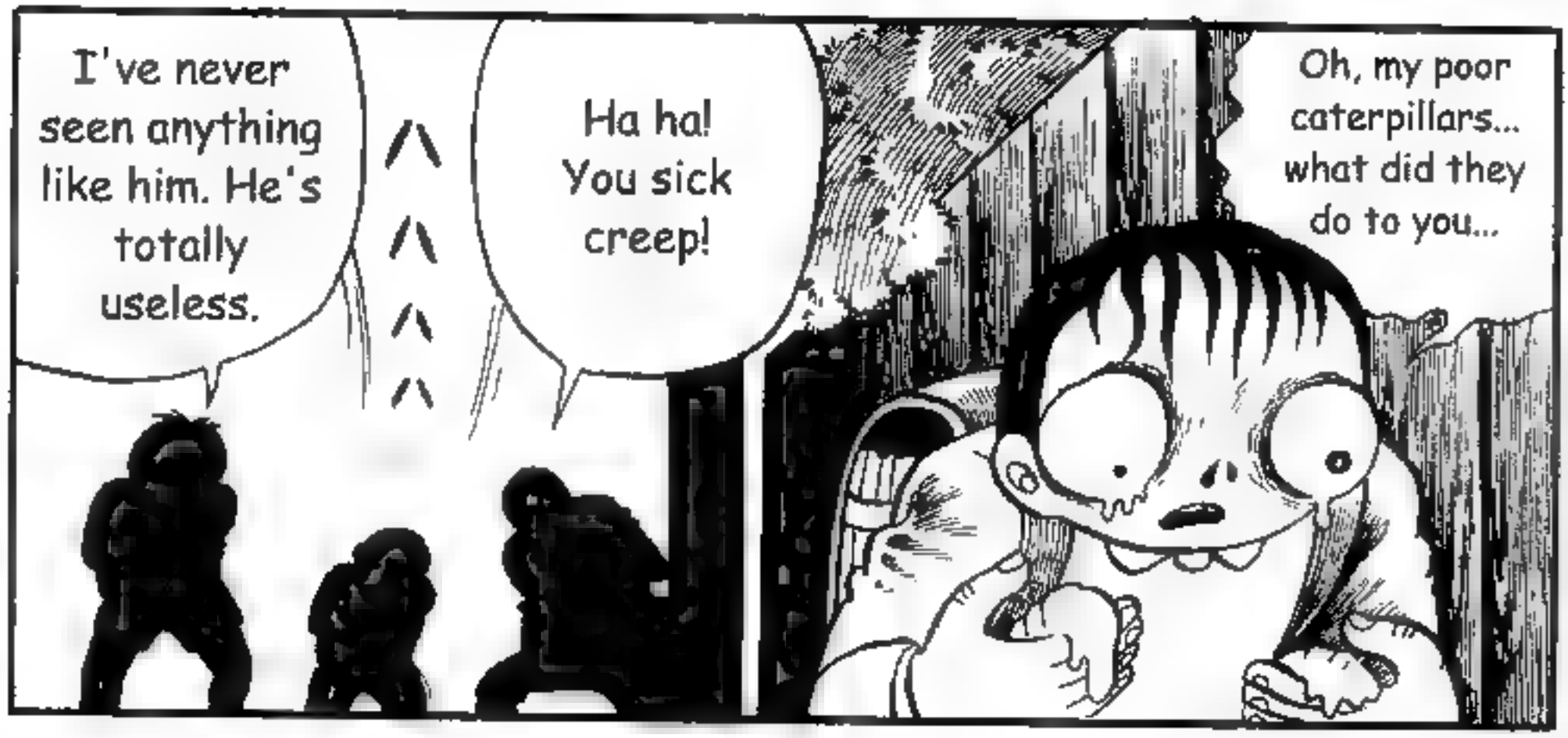
W-w-w-what!

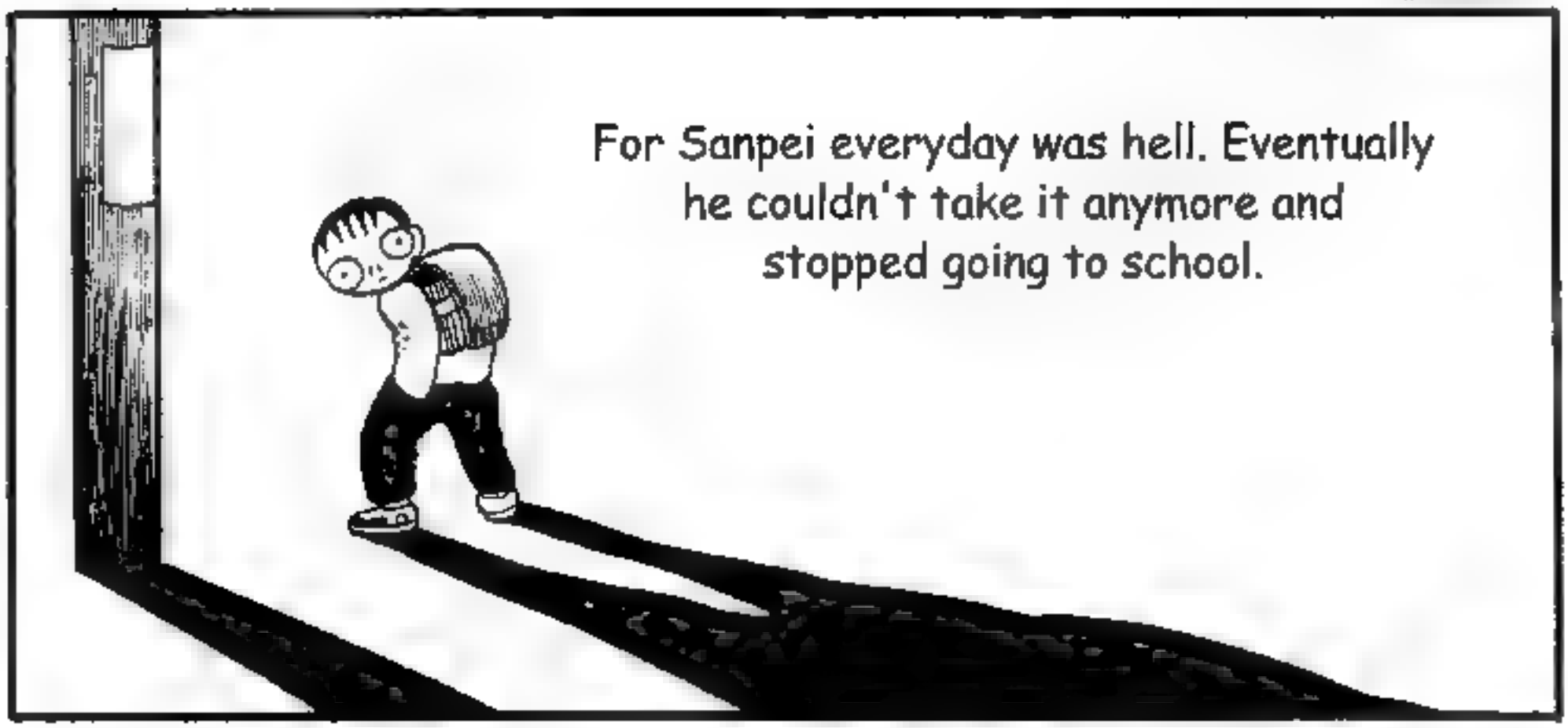
You touched us and gave us germs, didn't you, eh?

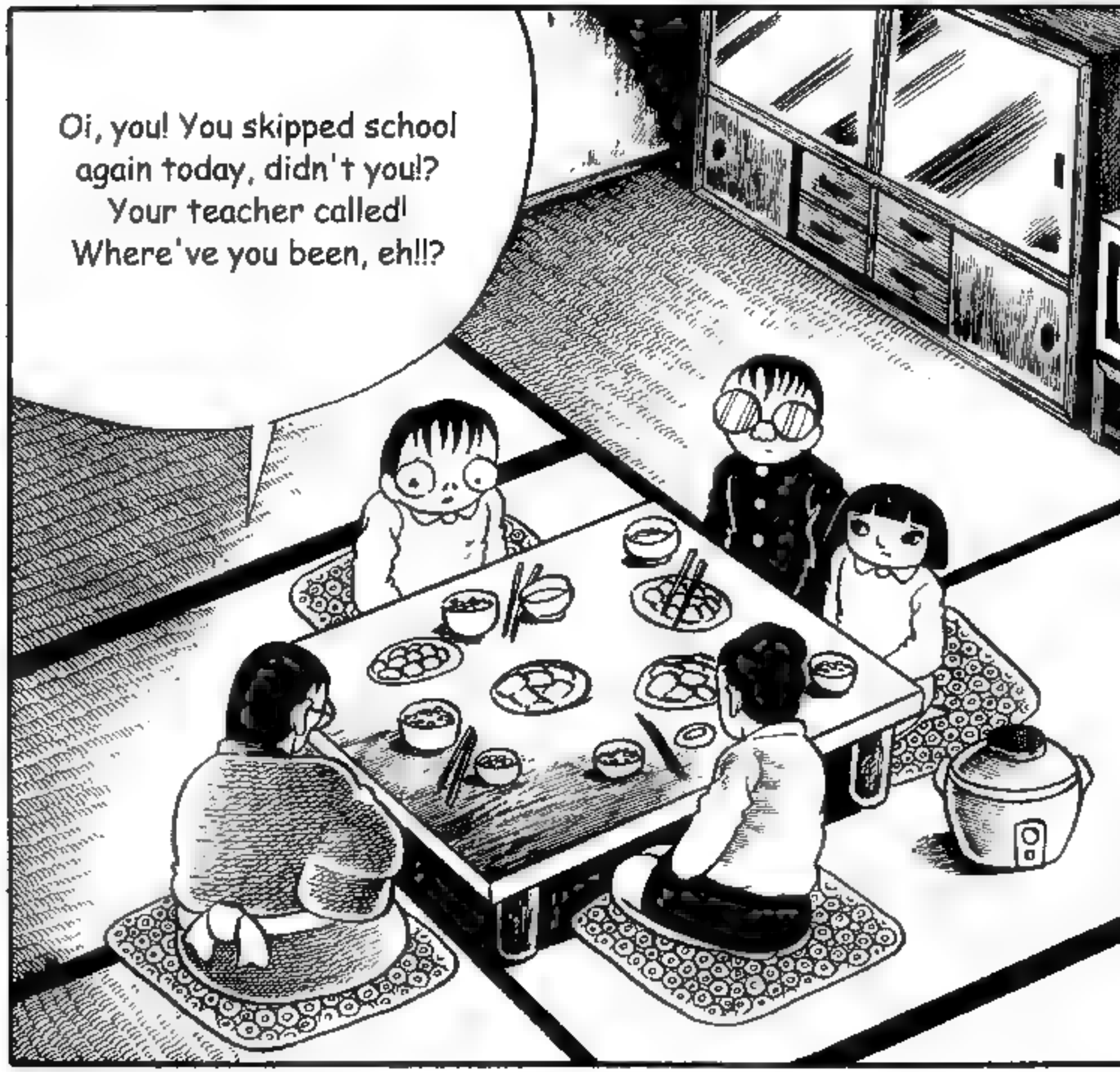
ボカ
スカ
ボカ
スカ

ちゃ


Errrr! Squash'em all!
Errrrr! He's got his bugs with him again!


I've never seen anything like him. He's totally useless.
Ha ha! You sick creep!
Oh, my poor caterpillars... what did they do to you...


For Sanpei everyday was hell. Eventually he couldn't take it anymore and stopped going to school.


Oi, you! You skipped school again today, didn't you!? Your teacher called! Where've you been, eh!!?

I asked you where you've been dammit!! Answer me when I speak to you!!!

.....

You trying to ignore me?!!

I'll show you what you get for ignoring me, you little brat!!

No! Please! Stop! Stop!!

Right! Tonight you get no dinner! Now go to your room and stay there!

Compared to Sanpei, his brother and sister were geniuses.

もぐもぐ

And whenever his parents thought of their three children, they always got mad at Sanpei.

Shuichi and Hanako get straight As all the time at school. But this worthless piece of crap...!!!

ガラ

バーン

It didn't matter
if he was at school or
at home.
Sanpei was always
lonely.

.....

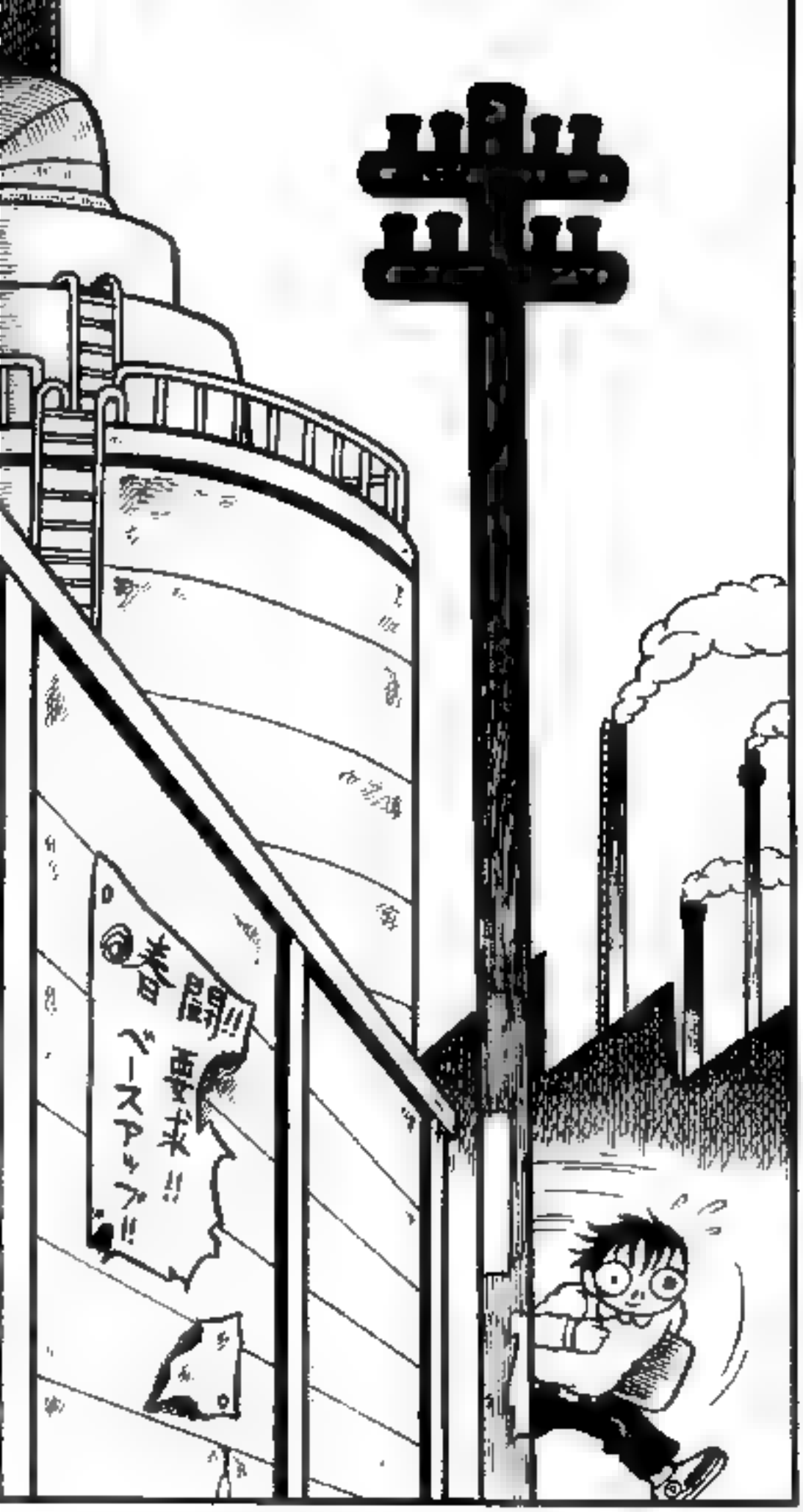
But Sanpei had a
secret that
he wasn't telling anybody.
It was where he went
when he skipped school...

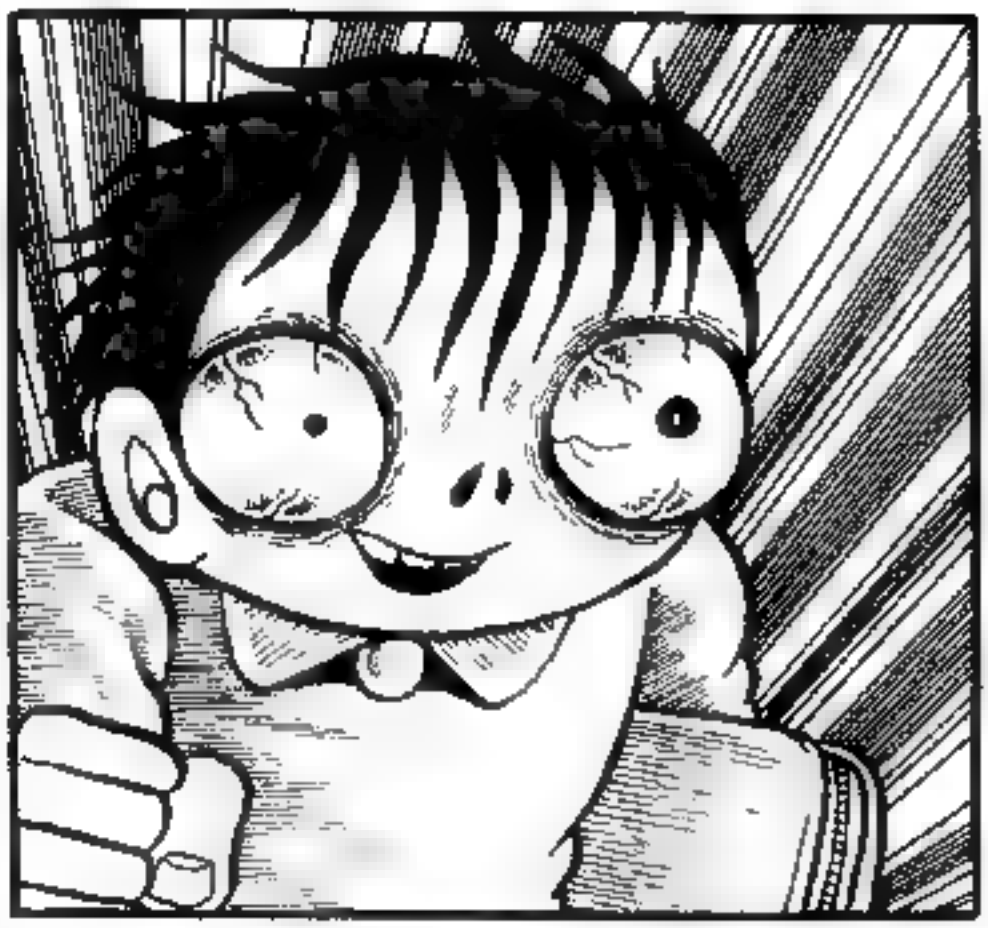
Secret Hiding Place

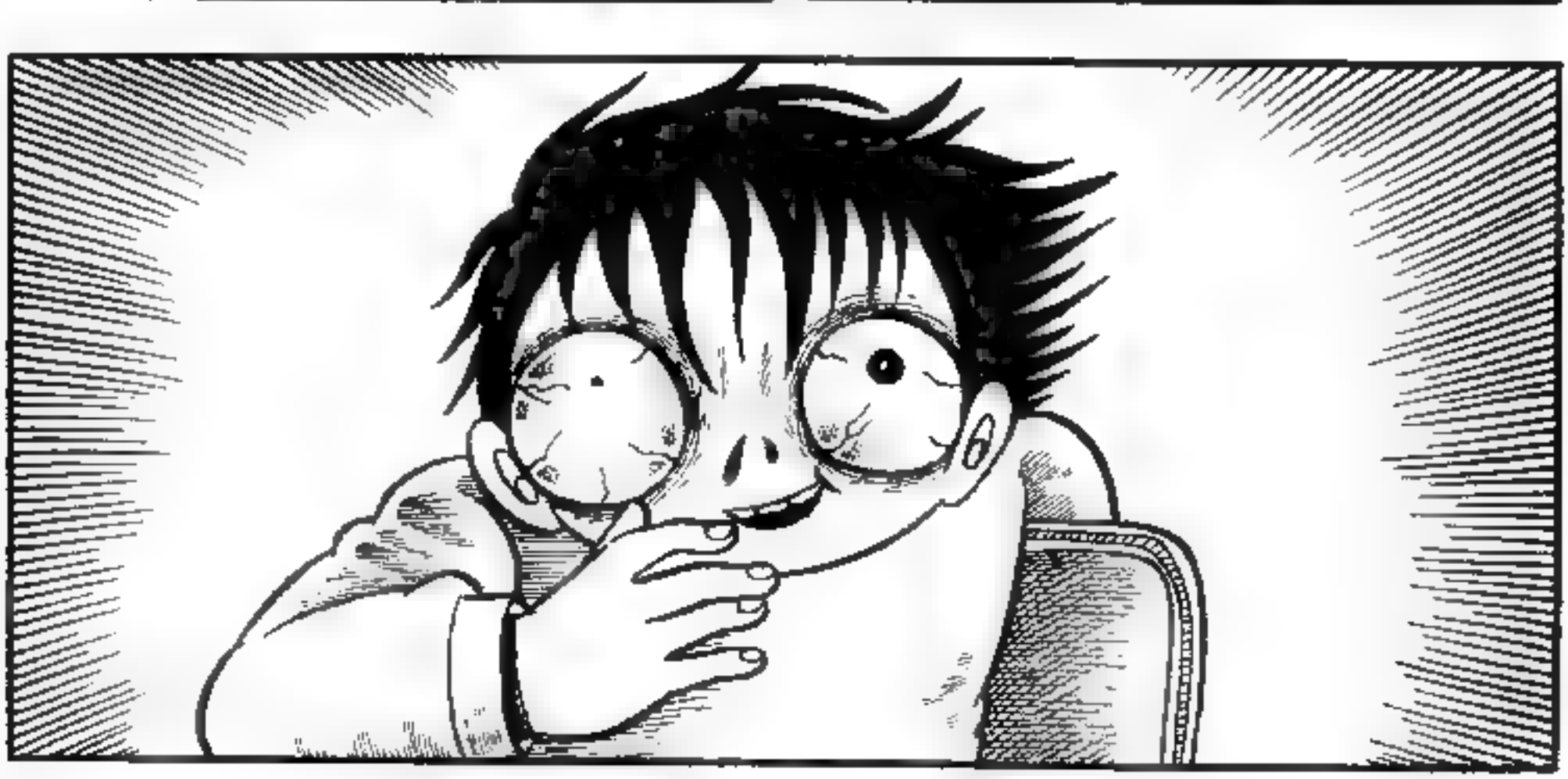
But that didn't bother Sanpei.

It was the end of the third term and there was to be a ceremony at school.

Tomorrow the long spring break would begin. He was now free to spend his days at his hiding place.







Only Sanpei
knew about the
garbage tip
behind the factory wall.

The place was a treasure trove of trash...everything that he could wish for.

Heh heh heh!

For anyone else it was a junk graveyard.

But for Sanpei it was paradise...

Deep inside the mountain of rubbish he had made his own den.

Chirp...

And how are all of you today? Heh Heh.

Meow meow

Yap yap

Here Sanpei kept his many pets.

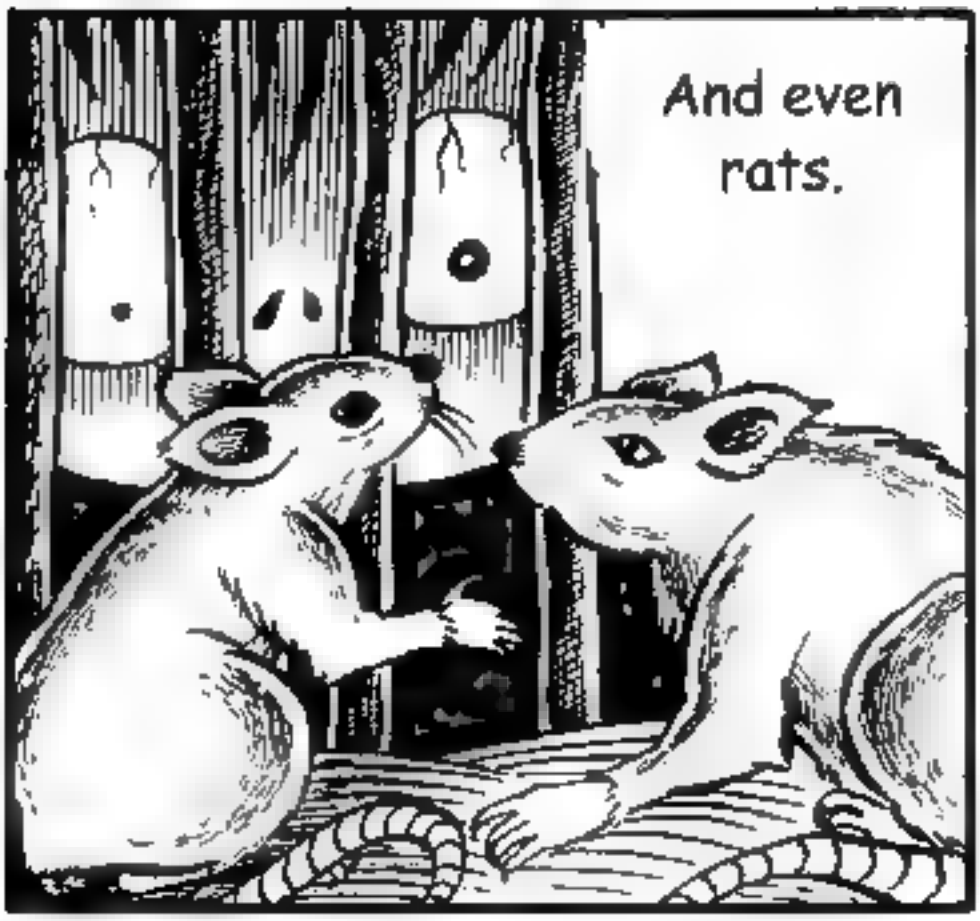
Stray dogs and cats...

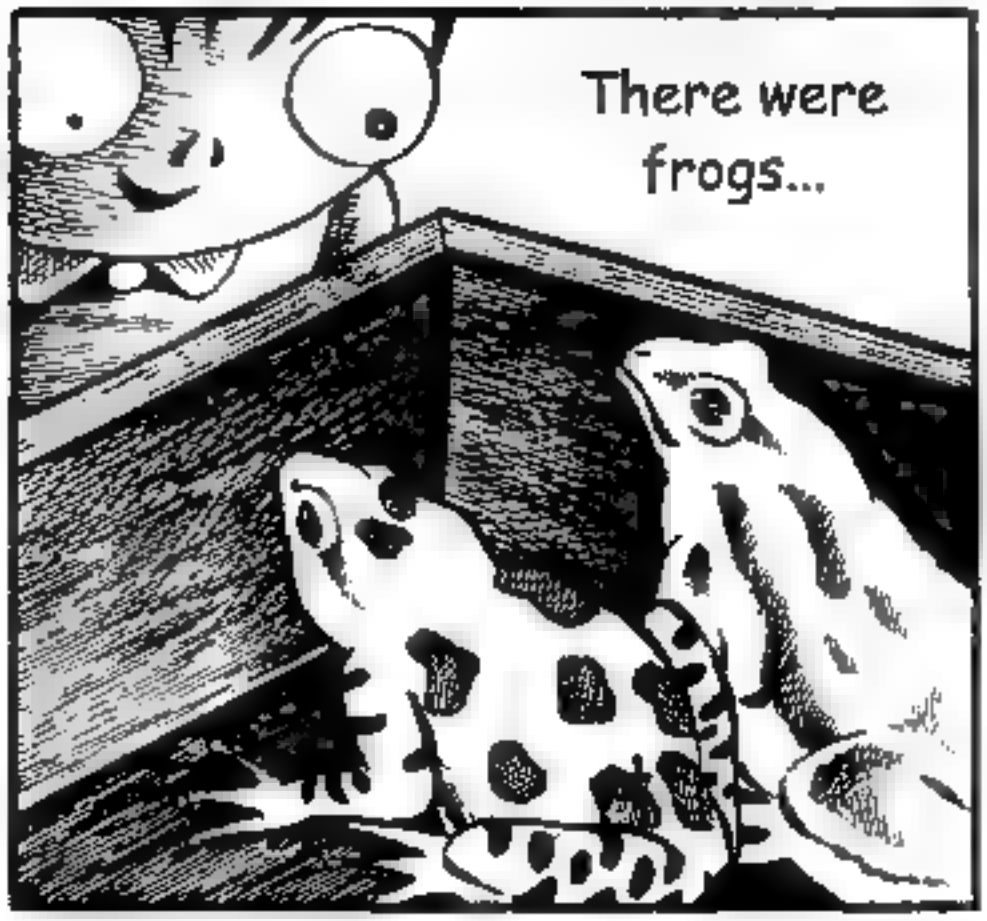
Different kinds of caterpil-lars...

Snakes...

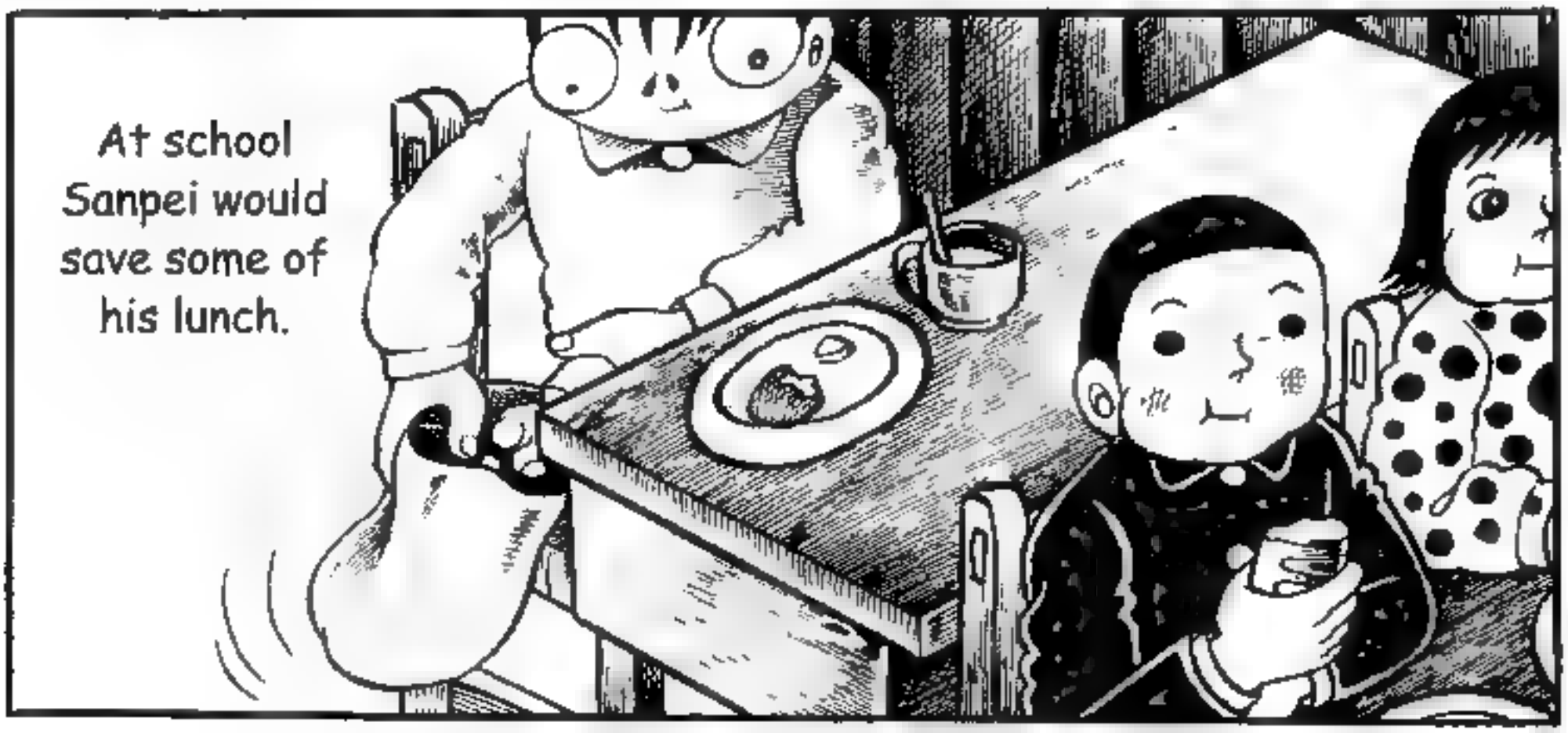
And in a fish tank lived his pet goldfish and carp.

Birds...

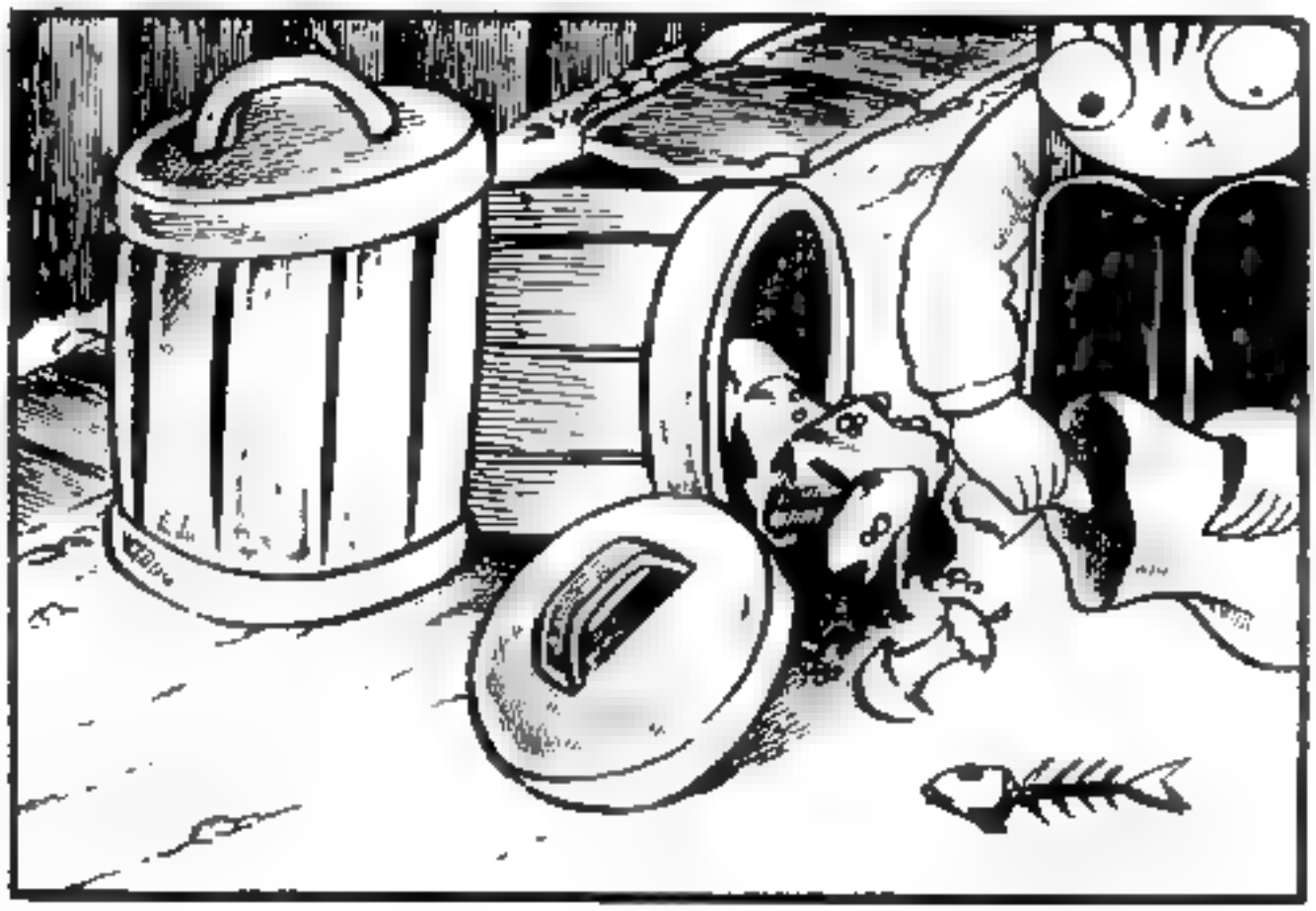




At school Sanpei would save some of his lunch.



And on his way home he'd look through the trash cans for scraps he could feed to his pets.



Once he'd secretly kept his animals in his room at home.

What are you doing?!!

.....

You idiot!! You think it's okay to filthy up your room like this?!!

This is where these disgusting creatures belong!!

Donk!!

How many times have I told you to do your homework!!

Oh no...what have you done...

There, there...you're okay.

Since then Sanpei's pets had lived in safety at the secret den under the garbage.

Sanpei was at his most happy when he was in his den.
To him, it was heaven.
When he played with his pets he
imagined himself a bird soaring high in the sky,
or a fish swimming deep in the ocean.
It was at these times that
he could escape from the torment in his life
and disappear into a world of dreams.

Oh, if I were only a fish or a bird I'd be so happy living out in the wild.

Oh no!! I forgot the time! I've gotta get home!

There'd be no school, and no one to pick on me.

But I don't care. From tomorrow it's one long holiday.

Mom and dad are gonna be mad at me again for getting straight Fs at school.

Chirip chirip...

It's gonna be heaven.

I can come here everyday.

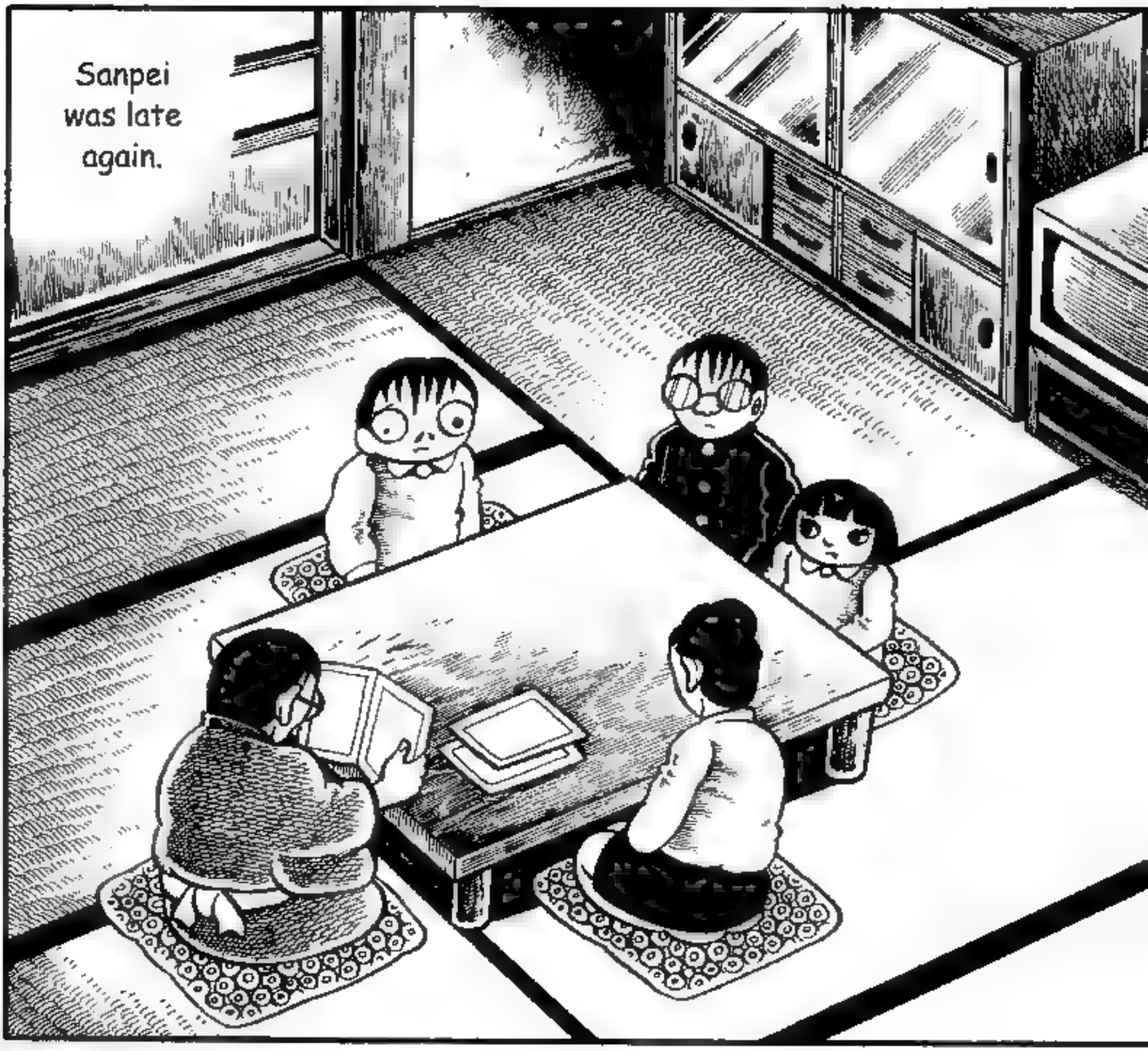
Chirip... chirip...

Goodbye everybody. See you tomorrow.

Yap yap...yap-yap...

Meeeow meeeow...

The Big Red Bug



.....

Whaaaat?!! Not all Fs again!!

You worthless child!!

!!

What d'ya think you're going to do in the future?!!

Why can't you be a bit more like Shuichi and Hanako?!!

If you continue like this you're gonna end up a dropout!!

I know you're not a bad kid.
You've got a good heart... But that's not gonna help you in the real world!!

You're always so damn timid, boy! Why don't you toughen yourself up!!

.....

Goodnight everyone...

I've seen enough of you today. Go to your room.

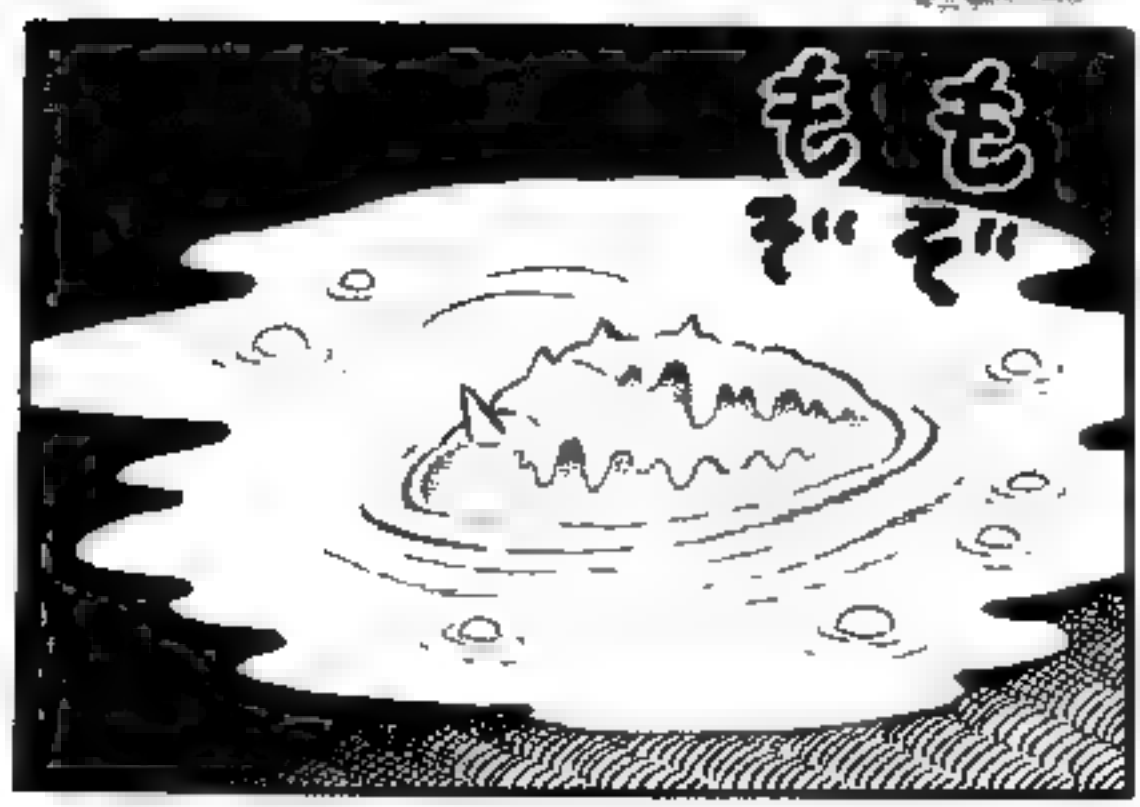
.....

Why has he turned out like this?

When Sanpei reached his room he suddenly fell to the floor and was violently sick.

Guw eeeeeh!!

Oo op!!



And worse was to come. There appeared to be something wriggling about in the pool of vomit. Something alive.

What it was was a huge red bug. As Sanpei stared down at it he could not have imagined that this creature would change his life forever.

Errrrrr...
It's bright red.

It must be some sort of parasite.

Yaaao uch!!

After what seemed like days Sanpei awoke, sprawled out on his bed.

W-w-what happened to me?!!

I...I must have knocked my head when I fell...

The moment the creature stung Sanpei its poison poured into his veins and quickly spread through his whole body.
He collapsed onto the floor, unconscious.

But the vomit on the floor had gone. And the bug was nowhere to be seen...

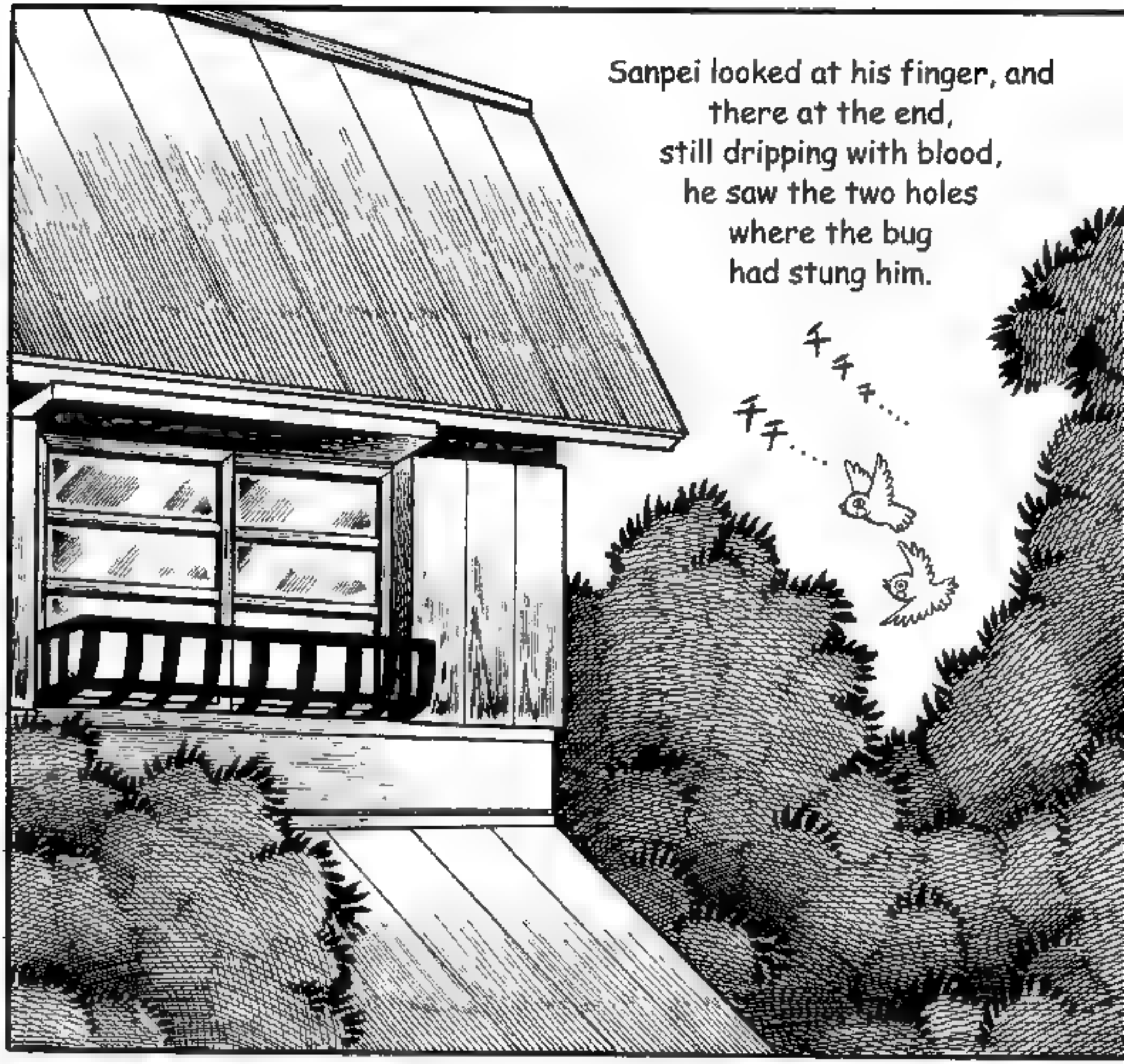
Now I remember. I threw up... And in the sick was a huge red bug... It must've stung me.

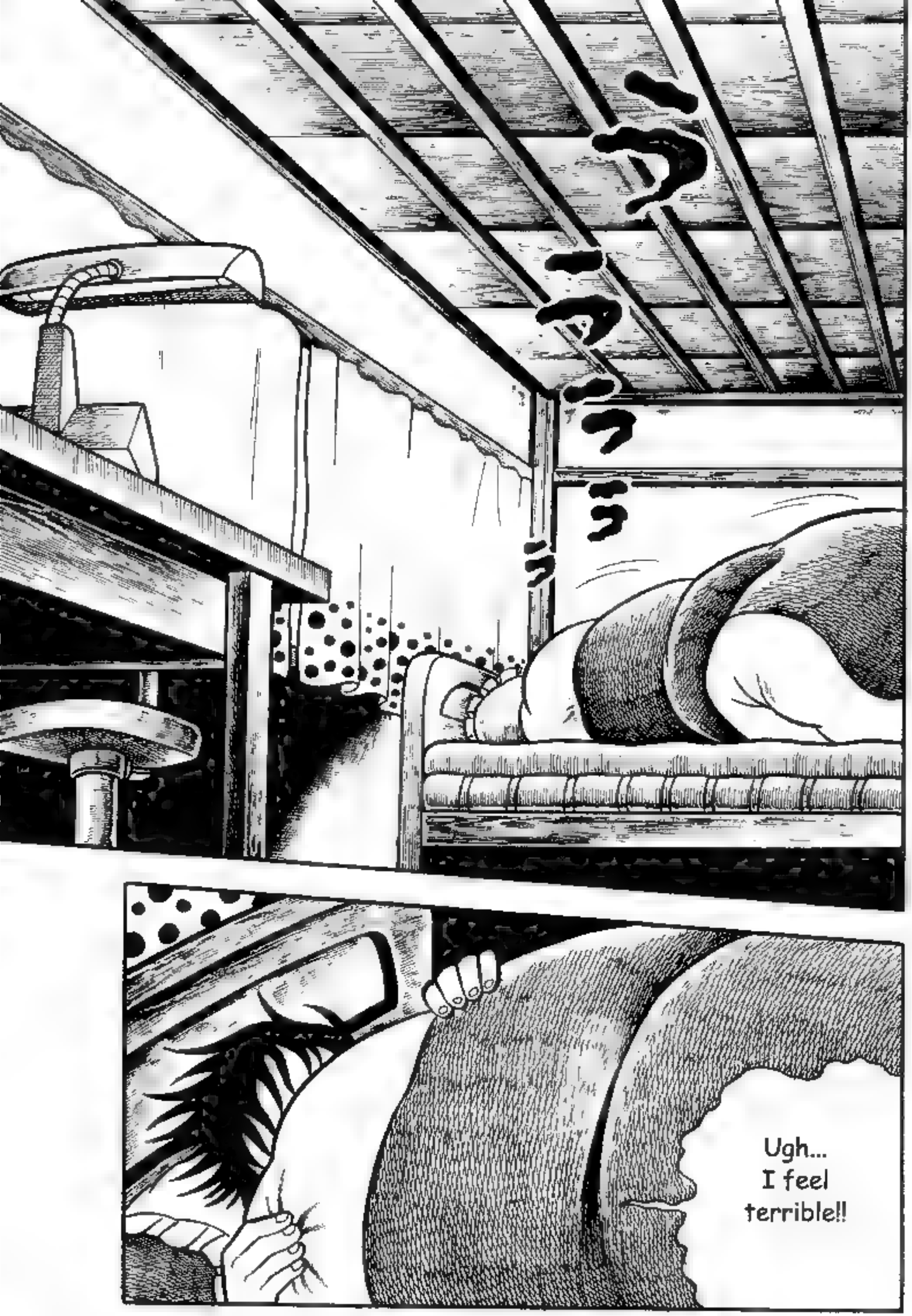
I...I must have knocked my head when I fell...

No! It was true!! It must've really happened!!

This couldn`t be... I must have dreamed the whole thing.

The Strange Sickness




Ugh...
I feel
terrible!!

Uggg

hhh...!!

...I've never seen anything like this before.

Well I've done the best I can. To tell you the truth...

I really won't know anything more until I've done a blood test...

But he says he was stung by some red poisonous bug...

I'll be in touch.

I understand doctor. Thank you for coming.

But nobody really knew what was wrong with Sanpei, and he grew sicker and sicker.

His fingers dropped off one by one.

ボ"
ロ"
ッ

The hand he'd been stung on became soft and sticky, and soon began to rot away.

ど"ろ"ど"ろ

The disease spread up his arms and eventually they both snapped off in a gooey mess

His legs followed, dropping from his body like melted candles.

Sanpei was soon a round ball of flesh.

Uargh... uargh...

I...
I understand...
Thank you for trying.

There's nothing more I can do...I'm sorry...
I don't think he has long to live.

Will the pain never stop?!!

Oh NOoooooooo!!
Somebody do something!!

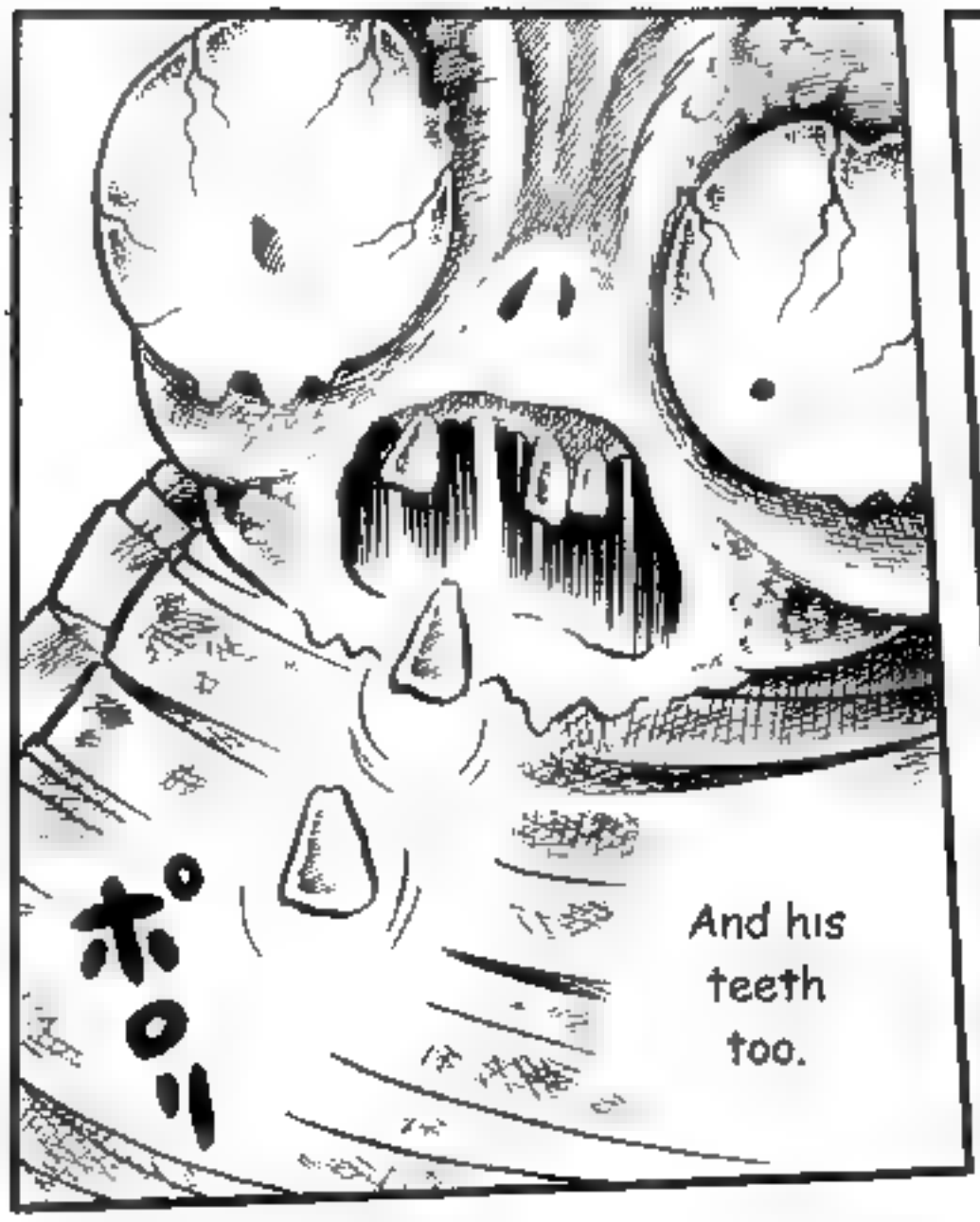
Don't say that!! Poor Sanpei... It's so sad...

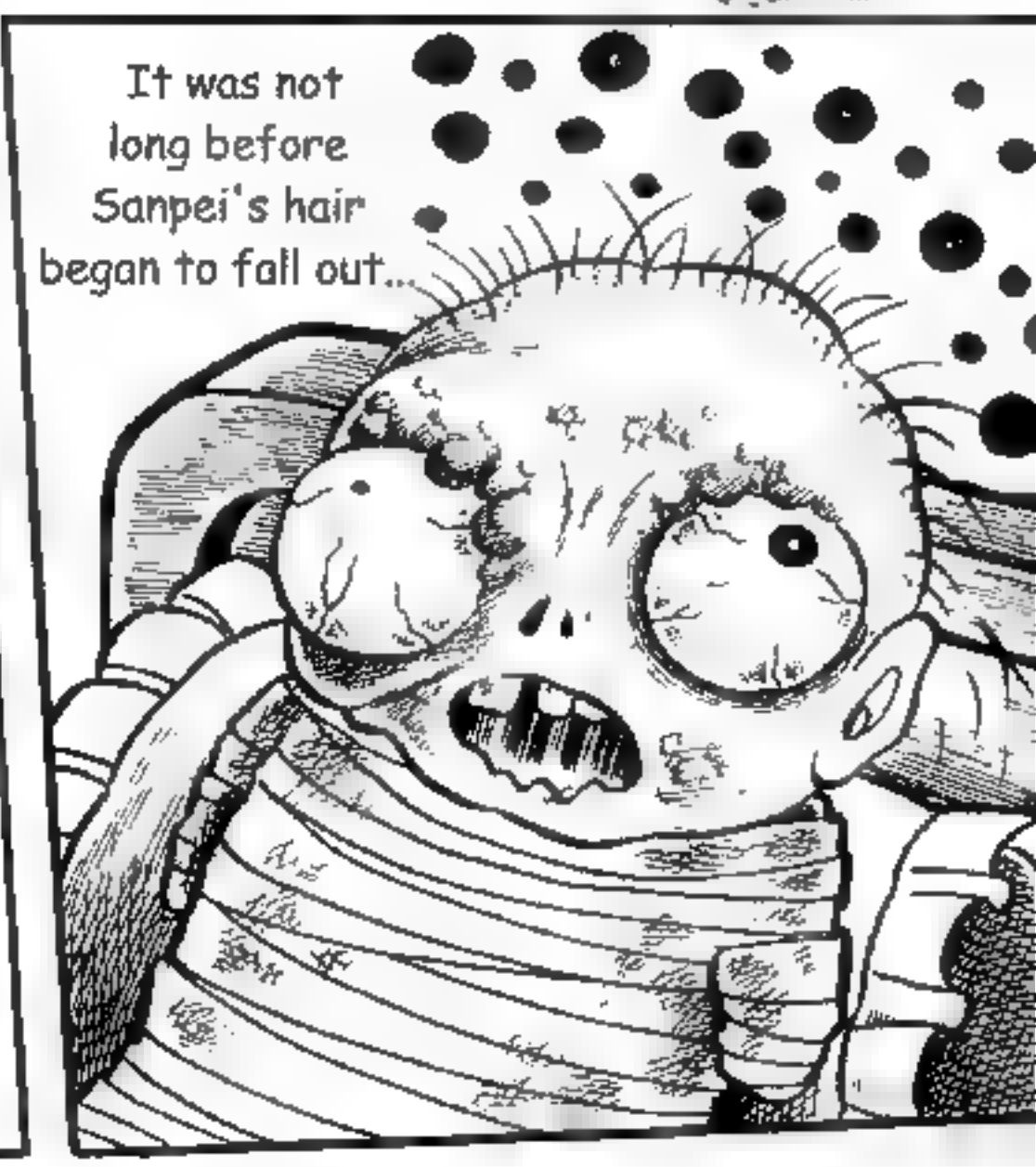
It serves him right for playing all the time when he should've been studying...

We must expect the worst. There's nothing more we can do I'm afraid.

Somebody please tell me why this is happening...!!

Aghhh hhhhh!!!


And his teeth too.


It was not long before Sanpei's hair began to fall out...

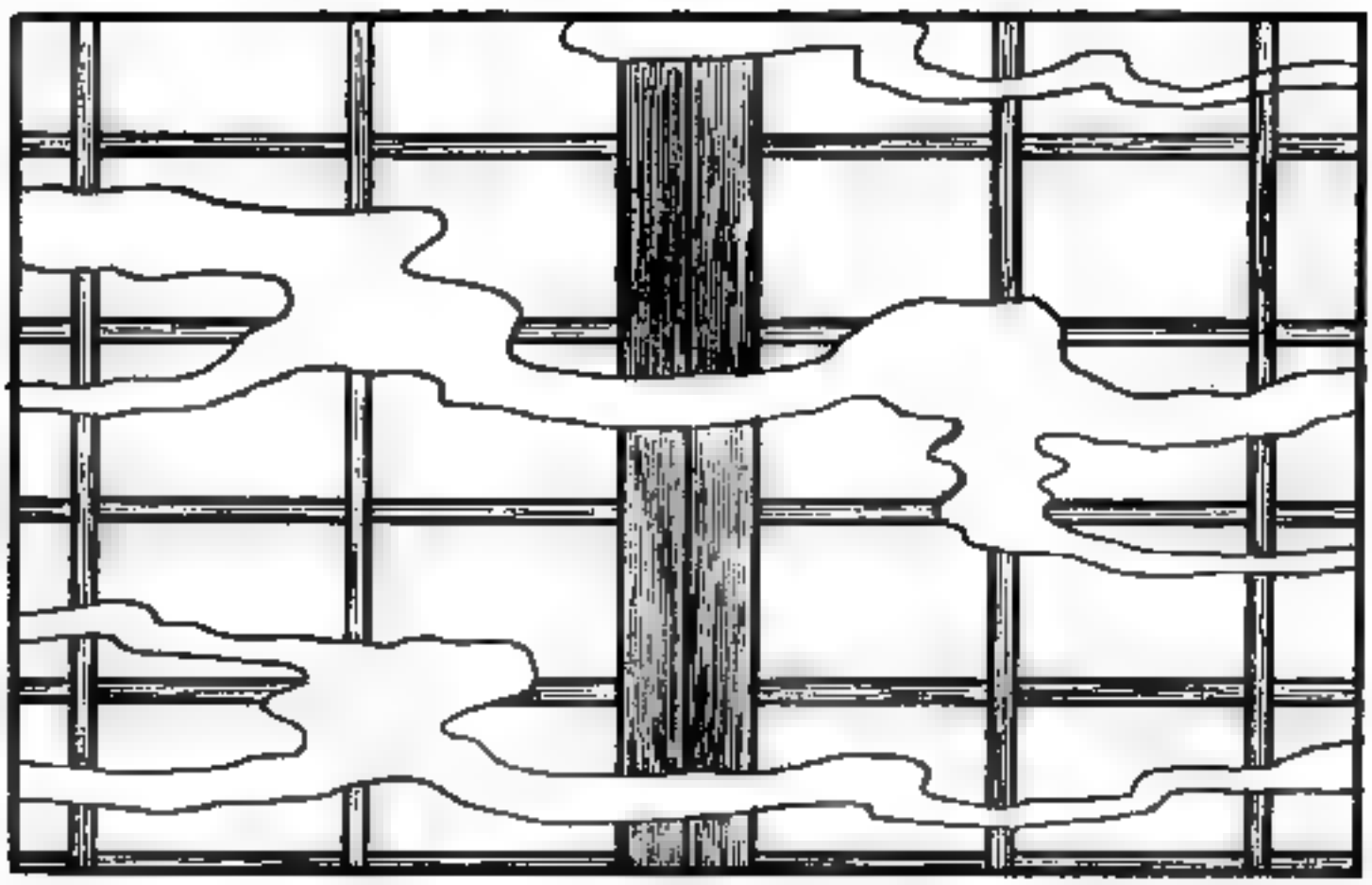
Soon his whole body was a rotting mass of jelly.

Ughhh hhh...!!

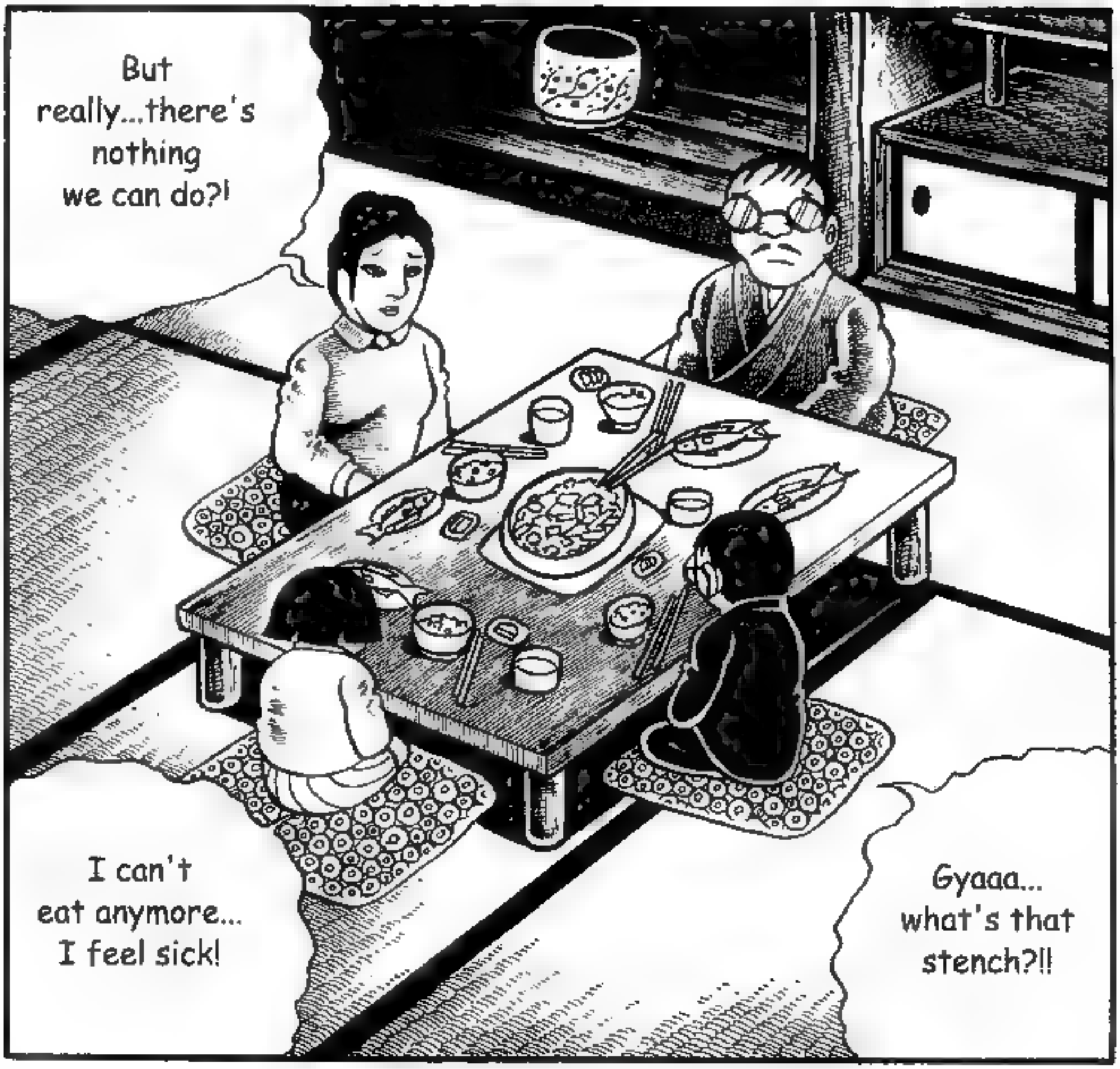
Even though he was in unbearable pain Sanpei felt his body begin to wriggle like a bug
He slowly made his way to the floor and there rolled back and forth in helpless torment.

yaaa aaah!!

Hiiiii



Soon a vile odor began wafting through the family house.



If you can't stand it, then how are we supposed to put up with it?!

Damn! I can't eat either with this smell in the house.

It's the first day of term tomorrow. A very important day for me. But how can I study with all this going on?!!

And it's my favorite as well. Omlet...

Surely...it can't be...him!!

W-w-what's that sound?!!

Uuugh... ugh...

Waa aaaa!!

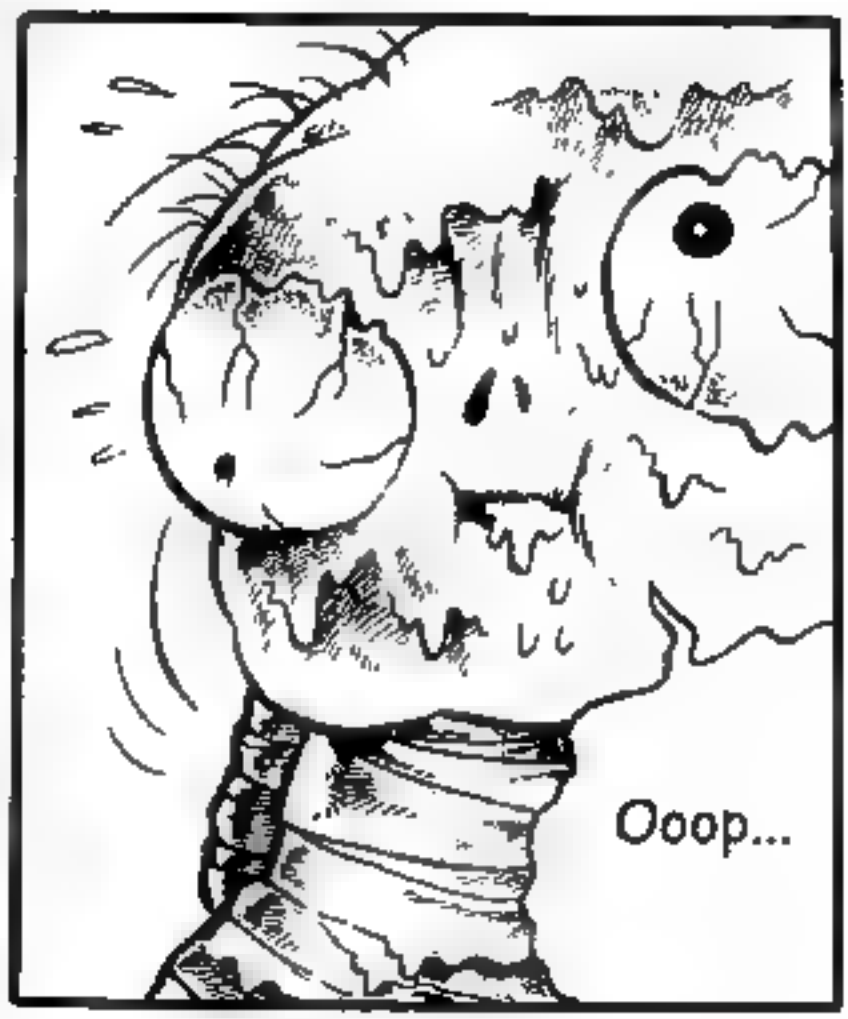
Eeeyaaa aaaaa!!!!

Uh...uh...uh...
I feel so bad...
so much pain...

Uhhhh...

What're ya doing,
you hideous creature?!!
How dare you wriggle
about the house
looking like that!!
Look at the mess you're
making on the floor!!

It wasn't long before Sanpei could no longer even take liquid food.



Gu...
gu...
guuu-
rupp!!

Wr...
Wuu...
ugh...

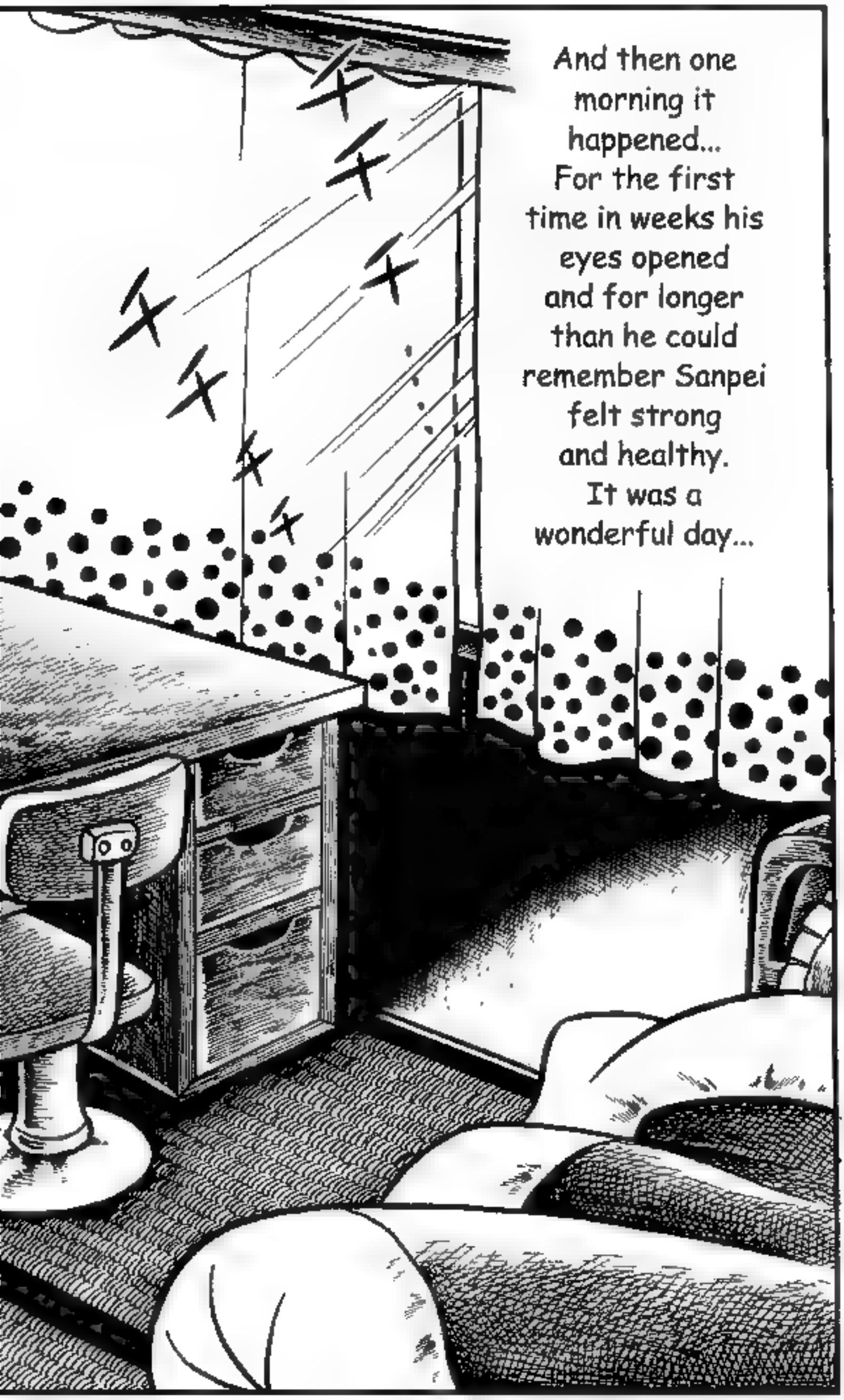
Look...I can no longer look after that child.

Anyway, he can't have much longer to live...

Oh well...

Sanpei's body was now a hard, mummified shell.
He stopped eating and fell into a long deep sleep. To anyone looking on he would have seemed no more than a living corpse.

Transformation


And then one morning it happened... For the first time in weeks his eyes opened and for longer than he could remember Sanpei felt strong and healthy. It was a wonderful day...

もぞ

That's it!
I know why
I feel great today!
I've finally
recovered!

It's like I've never
felt so good?
How long've
I been lying
here in agony...

もぞ

もぞ

But what's
this hard
thing lying
in my bed?
What the...!!

もぞ"
もぞ"
もぞ"

Aghhhhhh!
I-I-I'm
DEAD!!!!

And why
can I feel
myself moving?!
Who is this?!!

But why
is my body
split all down
the middle
like that?!!

What... he's not dead yet?!

He's been asleep all this time... What can have happened now?!

What's the matter, boy?!!

Sanpei! Hey, Sanpei!

Uuuuooo yaaa aaa!!!!

What?!! What's happening?!!

It's like...it's.. a..MONSTER!! A huge MONSTER BUG!!

Uh- uh- uh- uh

トン

Dad...
Pops...
is that you?

Dad...
please...
Dad!

It's me
Pops...
me...
Sanpei.

Aghhh.
It's trying to get out!!
The creature's trying get through the door!!

What's the matter?!!
Please open the door!!
Pleeeease!!

What's happening?!!
I can't seem to speak anymore?
My voice...
I've lost my voice!!

Quick!! All of you!! Hold the door shut!! It's getting out!!

ドン ドン ドン

Arrrgh!!!

Phew! That was lucky!!

ガ゛ガ゛ タ タ

What is it?!! Tell me!! What did you see?!!

A...a... a monster... a bug monster...

It was hideous... absolutely hideous!!

It's eaten Sanpei!! I tell you, it must've eaten poor Sanpei!!

You're right...That lock won't hold forever.

Quick! Call the police, or it'll kill us all!!

The police'll know what to do.

Wouldn't it be better to get the army instead?

Aaaaa gheeeee!!

No, no... the police'll be able to handle it.

Th-th-
that's it!!
That's the
creature!!

Kyaaaaaaaaah!!

Mom, Dad...Shuichi,
Hanako... It's
me...it's Sanpei!!

What's wrong? It's me. Sanpei.

Why can't I speak? Why won't my words come out?

Wait...!! That's not a monster... That's Sanpei!!

Quick!! Kill it!! Now!!

Oh, Hanako! Thank you Hanako! You recognize me at last!

It's Sanpei!! Can't you see? Look! He's crying.

That's it! It's Sanpei! Dad, it's Sanpei!

Now that you mention it, it does look a bit like him...

Wha-wha-what are you saying?!! That this thing is Sanpei?!!

If anyone sees this, what are they going to say?!!

I must be dreaming the whole damn thing.

It's a dream..

Get back!! I said, get... go back to your room!!

Get out of here now!!

Oh God!!
I must have been reborn as a bug... I must have come out of the shell of my old body...

Oh, what have I turned into...?

I'm no longer human...

I've been kept locked up in my room all this time.

I'm finally feeling healthy again and now this... I can't stand this boredom anymore...

Those three big padlocks I saw the other day are still there!!

I'm getting so restless in here! But the door's always locked.

Everyday mom brings me food.

She always shuts the door straightaway. She must find me so repulsive.

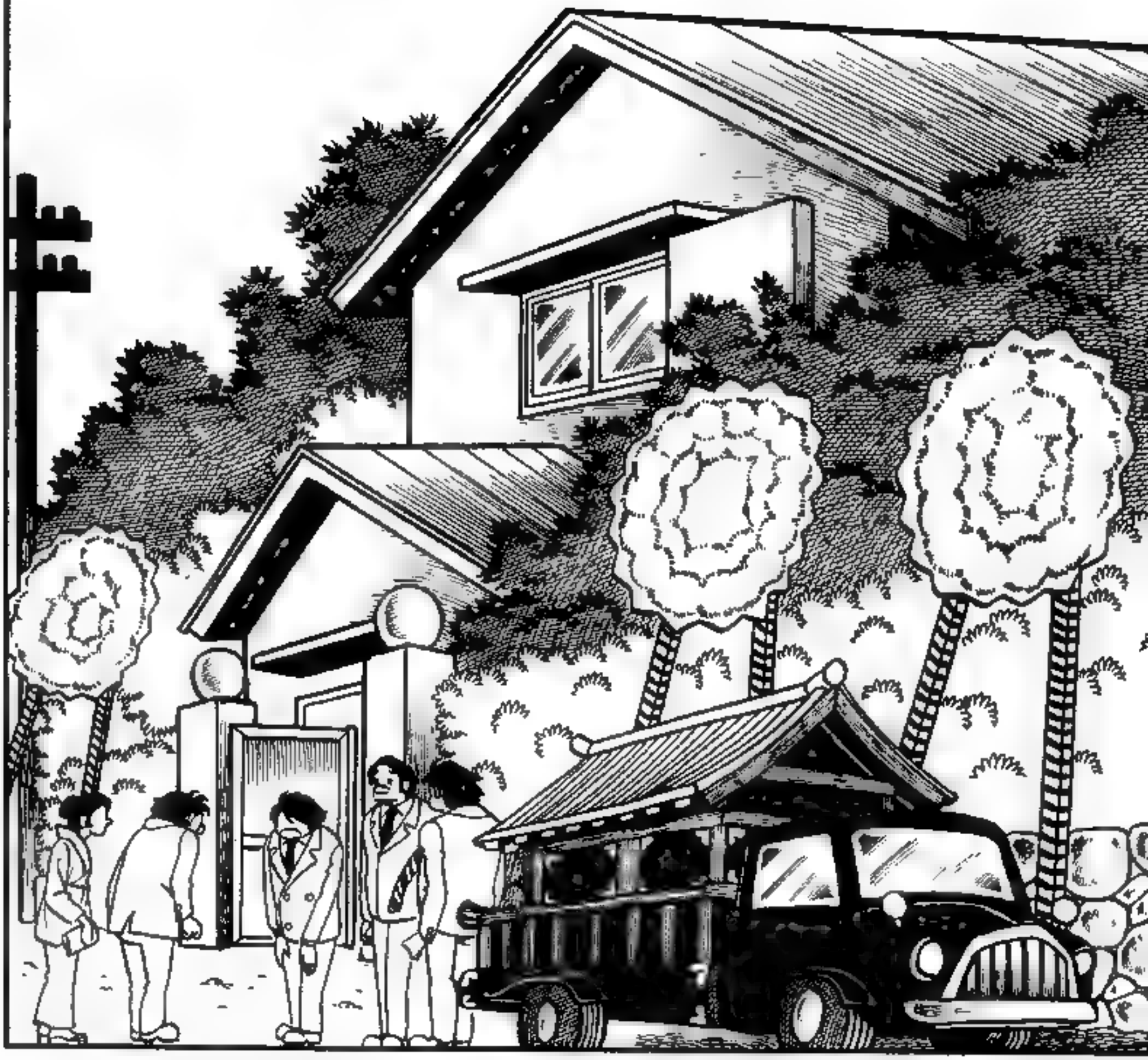
But worst of all I have to sleep each night next to my own corpse.

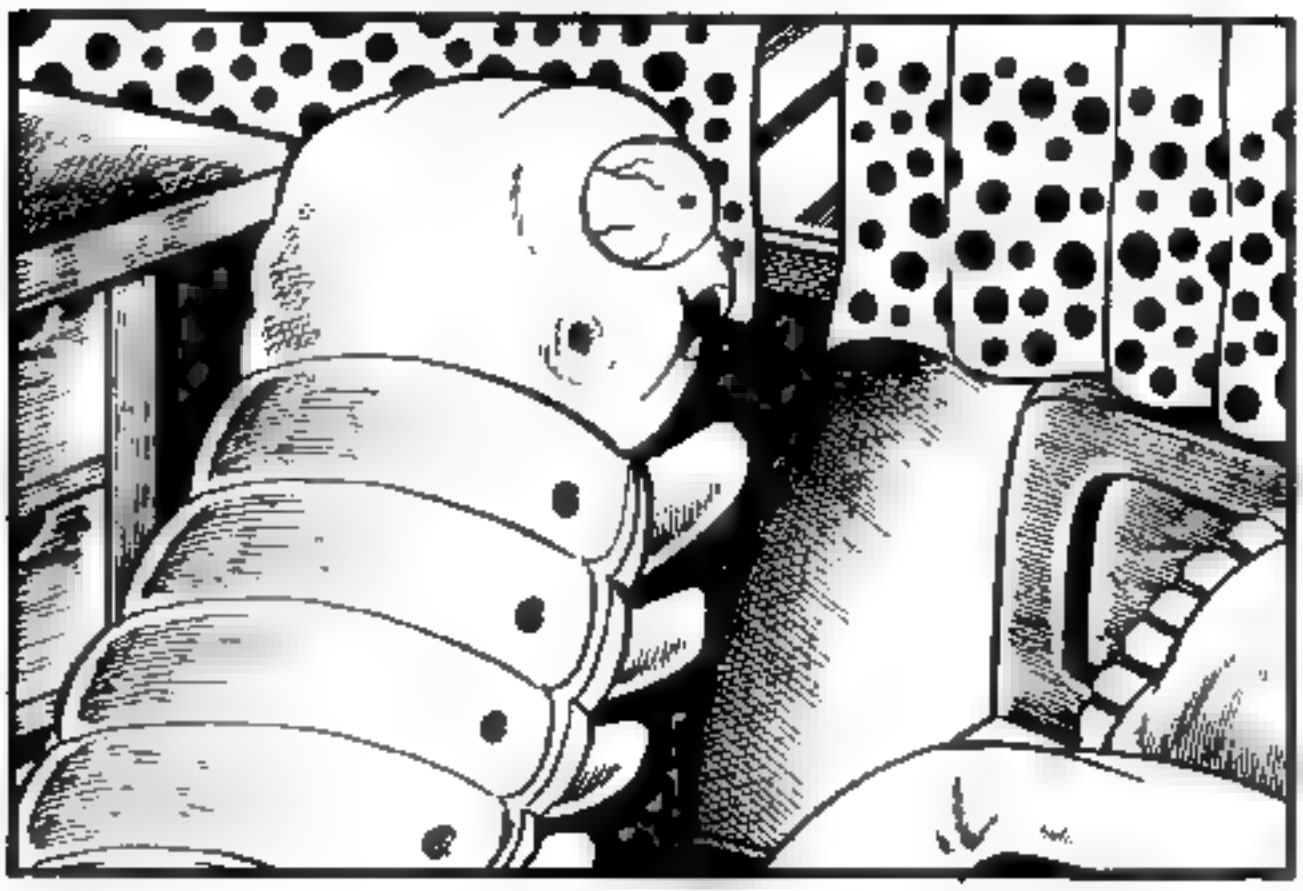
I look so creepy...

Something must be happening today. I haven't seen my brother or father for so long and now they're taking away that horrible body.

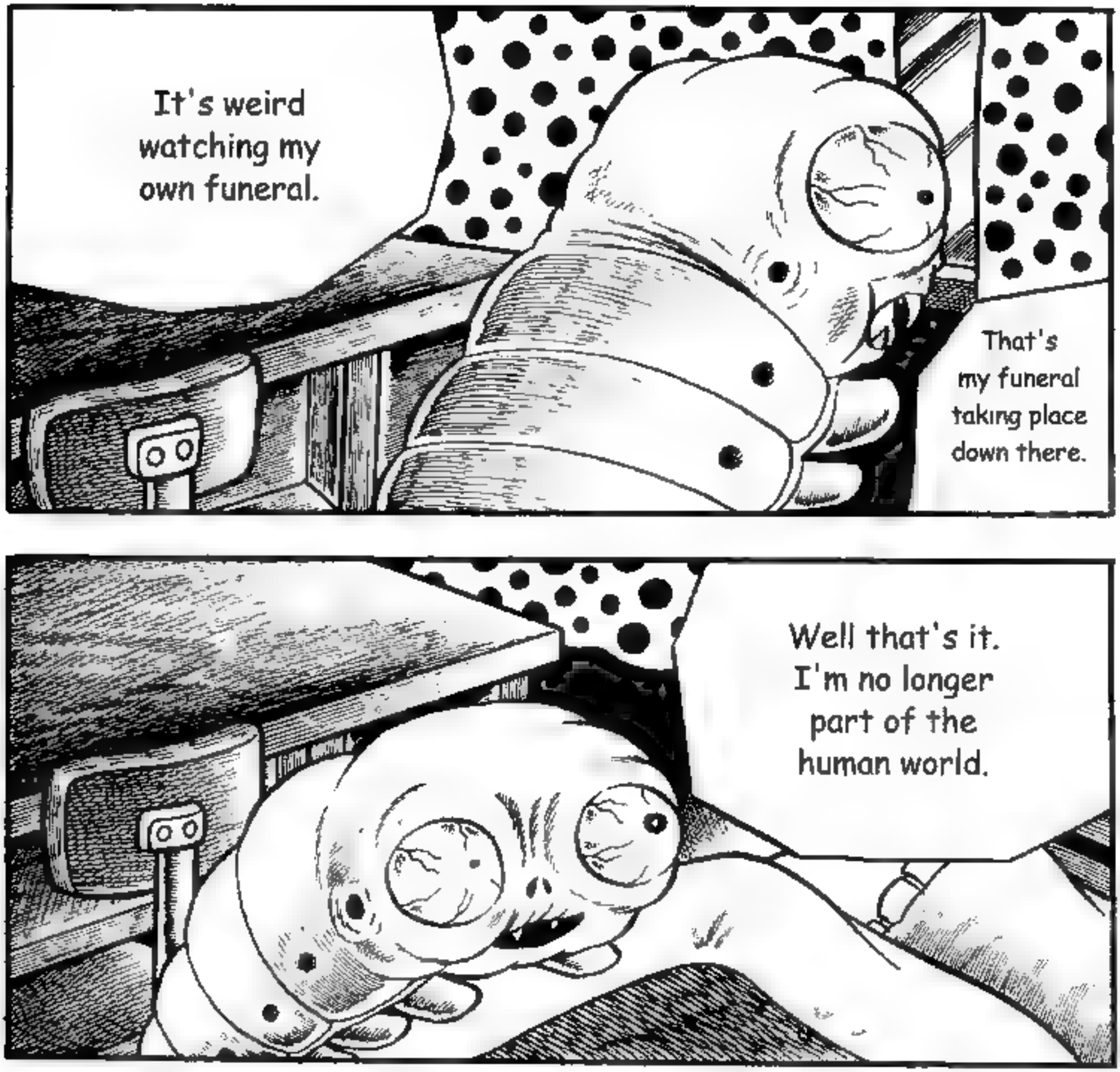
Finally, all my problems are over.

At last!! From tonight I'll be able to sleep alone... all by my bug self.





The next day a ceremony was held for the body's remains. Sanpei could just make out what was happening from his bedroom window.


It's weird watching my own funeral.
That's my funeral taking place down there.
Well that's it. I'm no longer part of the human world.
And for some reason I don't really care! This is what I am now!!
Hee hee hee... I can live with this!!

That evening Sanpei's family began to make plans...

Shhhh...!! Don't talk so loud....!!

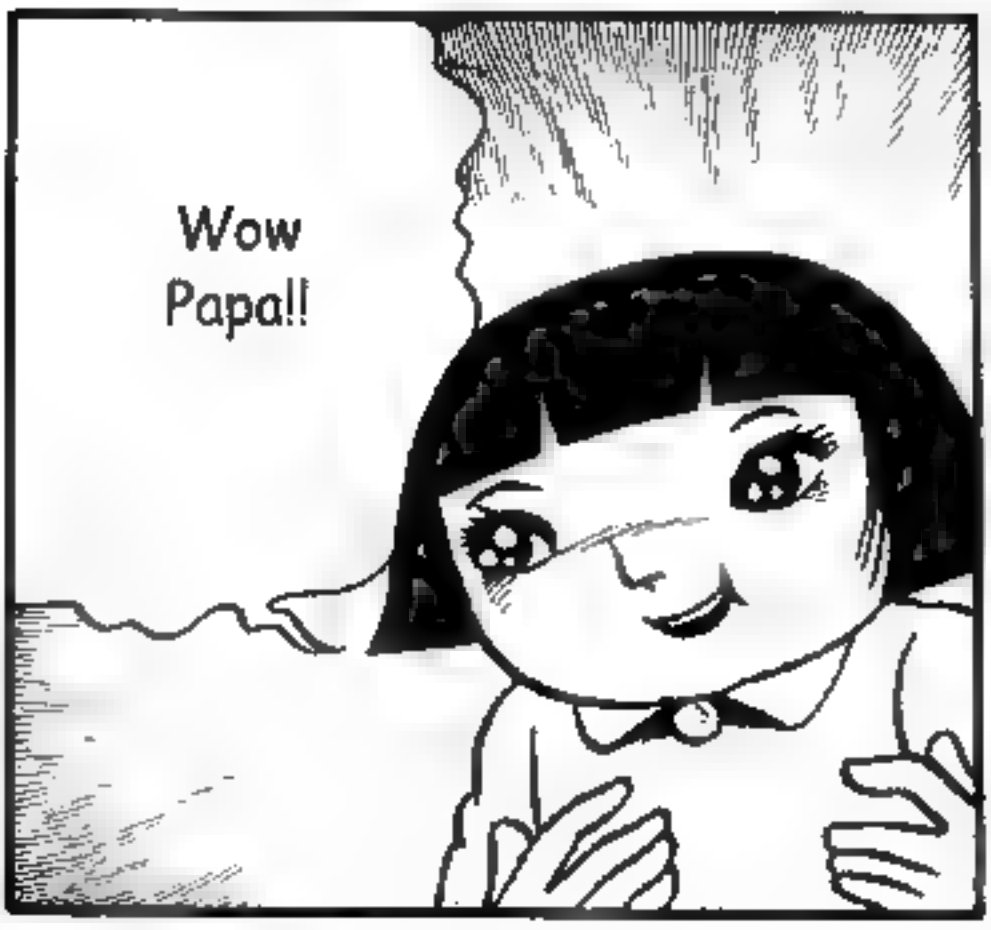
Murder Sanpei?!! How can you say that?!!

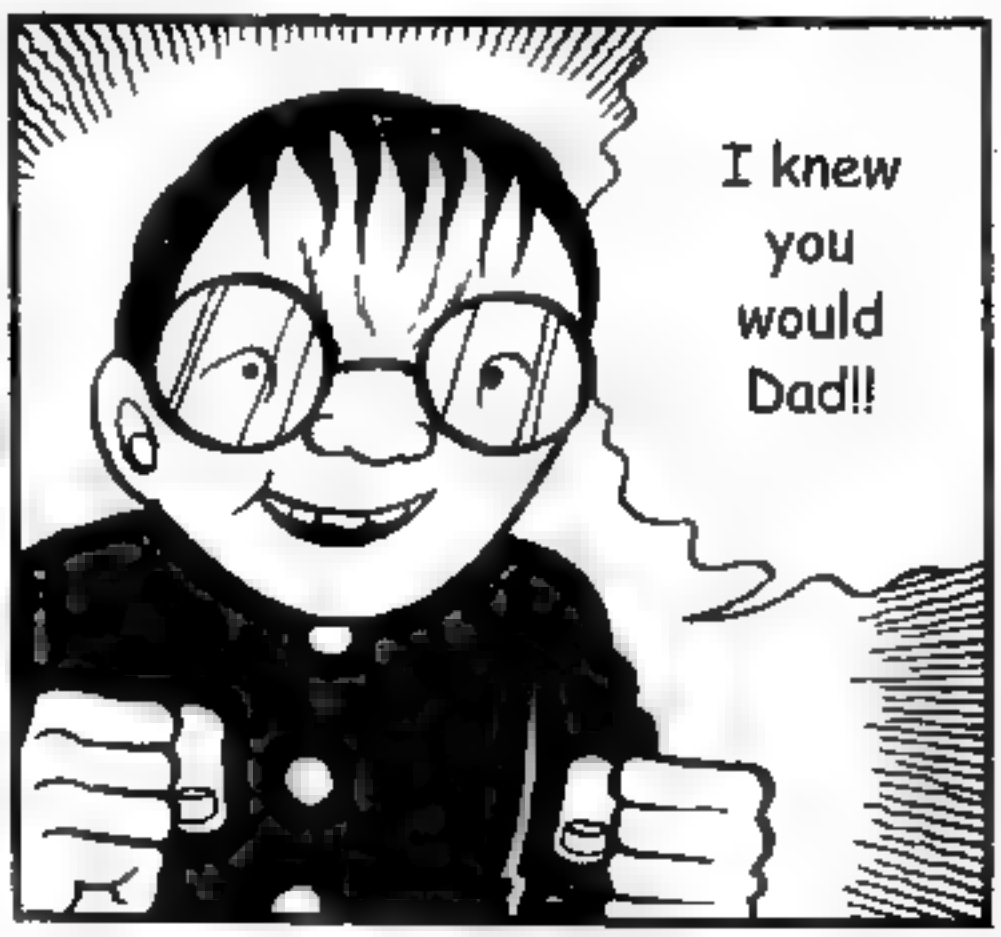
We've held a funeral for Sanpei... That... that thing is a monster... That's not Sanpei.

I just want you to think about it...

That's wonderful dear!!

And I've gotta surprise for you all. It looks like I'll be getting a promotion at work.


Wow Papa!!


I knew you would Dad!!

What if he sees that thing upstairs?!!
And so what happens when my boss visits us for dinner...eh?!!

That's right!! So we've got to think together, as one family...

We'll all be finished!!

I'm with you Pops!! If that thing's around how am I supposed to study for my high school entrance exams next year?

That's my boy!

I agree. And anyway, I can't go on looking after that creature.

Hanako...
If you were grown up now and wanted to bring your boyfriend home think what might happen. We are one family...

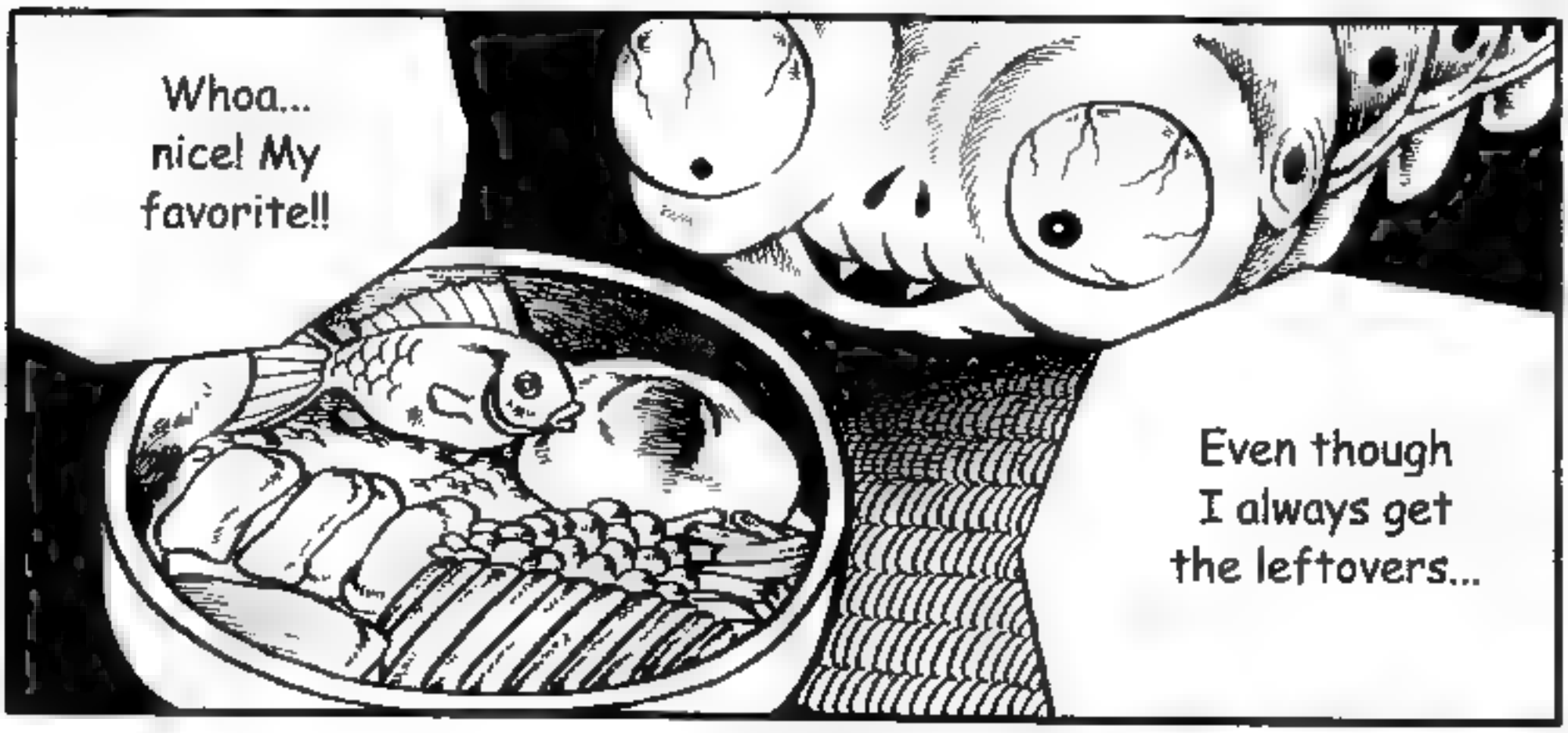
I guess...
I guess you're right.

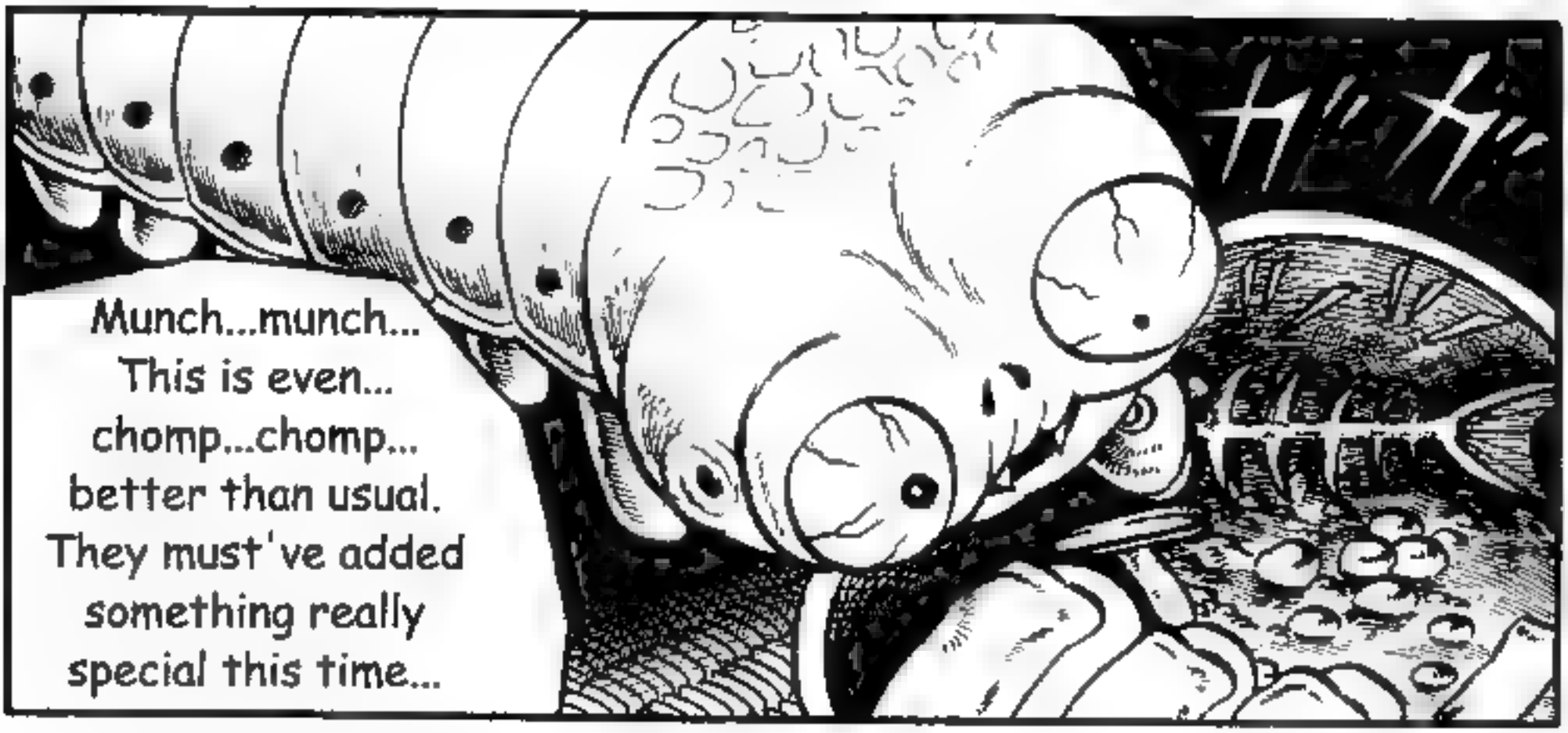
Psss psss
psss
psss.....
whisper
whisper
whisper.....

Right.
It's decided!

Everything's so quiet now that the funerals over. What's everyone doing down there.....?

Aa! ..... Footsteps.... ....!!


Whoa... nice! My favorite!!
Even though I always get the leftovers...


Munch...munch... This is even... chomp...chomp... better than usual. They must've added something really special this time...

Guwaaah! Wha...what the...?!!

Ugh?!!

Poison... they put poison in it!! Uuuwoyaaaah!!

They must all hate me!! There's no other reason for it!!

どすん ばたん

I just can't believe...

...that my mother and father...would do this to me...

And with that, Sanpei collapsed.

Ugh!! This is terrible!!

Help me somebody... I don't want to die!!

I've had it now!! I can't stop shaking!!

Escape

Many hours passed before he regained consciousness...

All around him it was dark...

W-w-where am I?!

But...but it means that I'm still alive!! No, I'm dead!! This must be Hell!!!

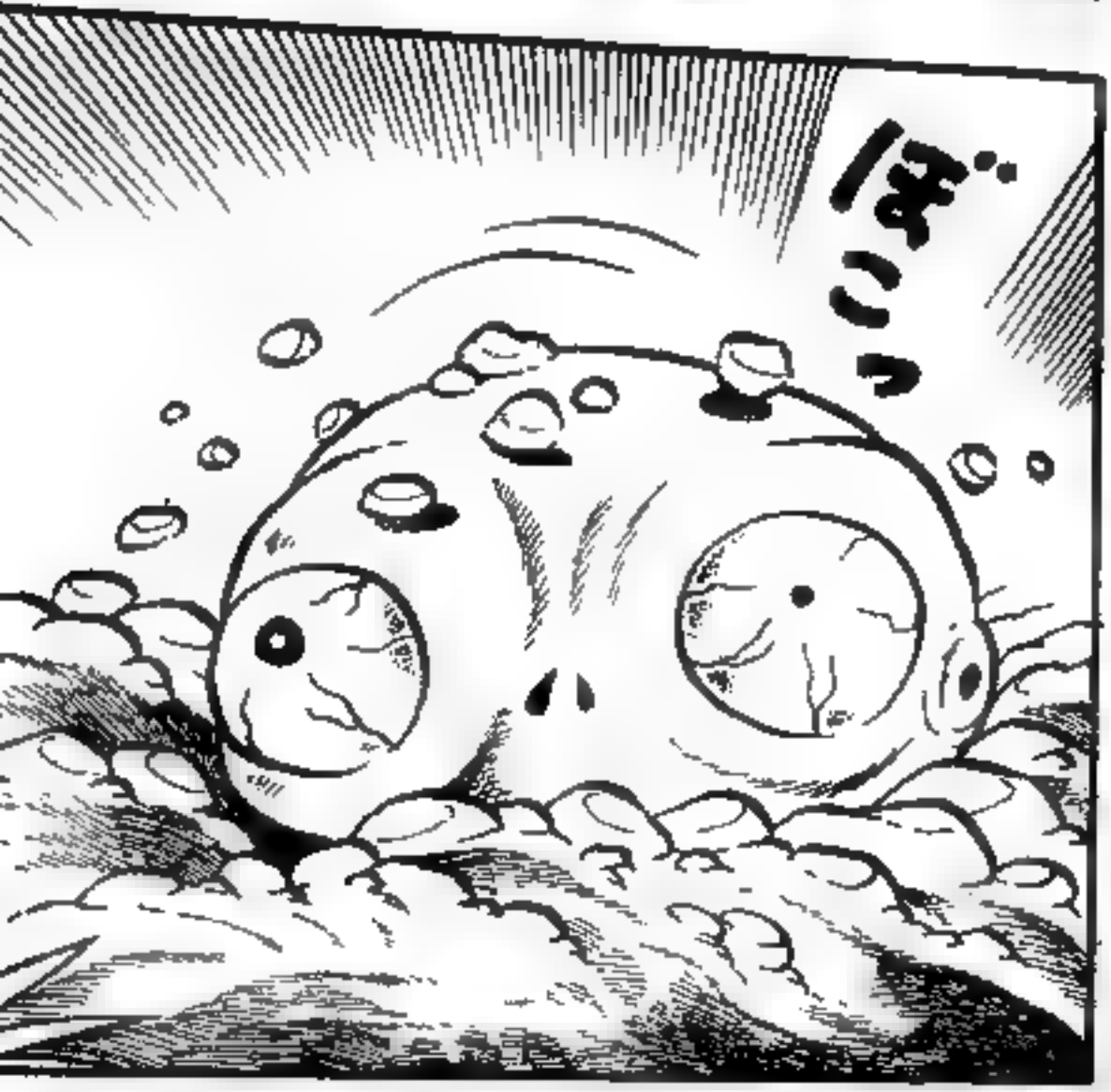
Wow!

I'm digging!!

They're moving!!

But... but I can...feel my legs...

This is soil!!!



That means I'm not dead but buried in the ground!!

Hey!!
I'm in my
own garden!!

もぞ
もぞ
もぞ
もぞ

That's it!! They must have thought I was dead and so buried me in the yard!!

How could they do this?!! Try to poison me and then bury me in the garden!!

Ha ha ha...
Everything's gone according to plan.

Congratulations on your promotion dear.

Yeah!!

Way to go Dad!!

But they all seem so happy that I've gone...

I was right!! They must've really hated me...

Eh? Dad's been promoted?

That's wonderful news.

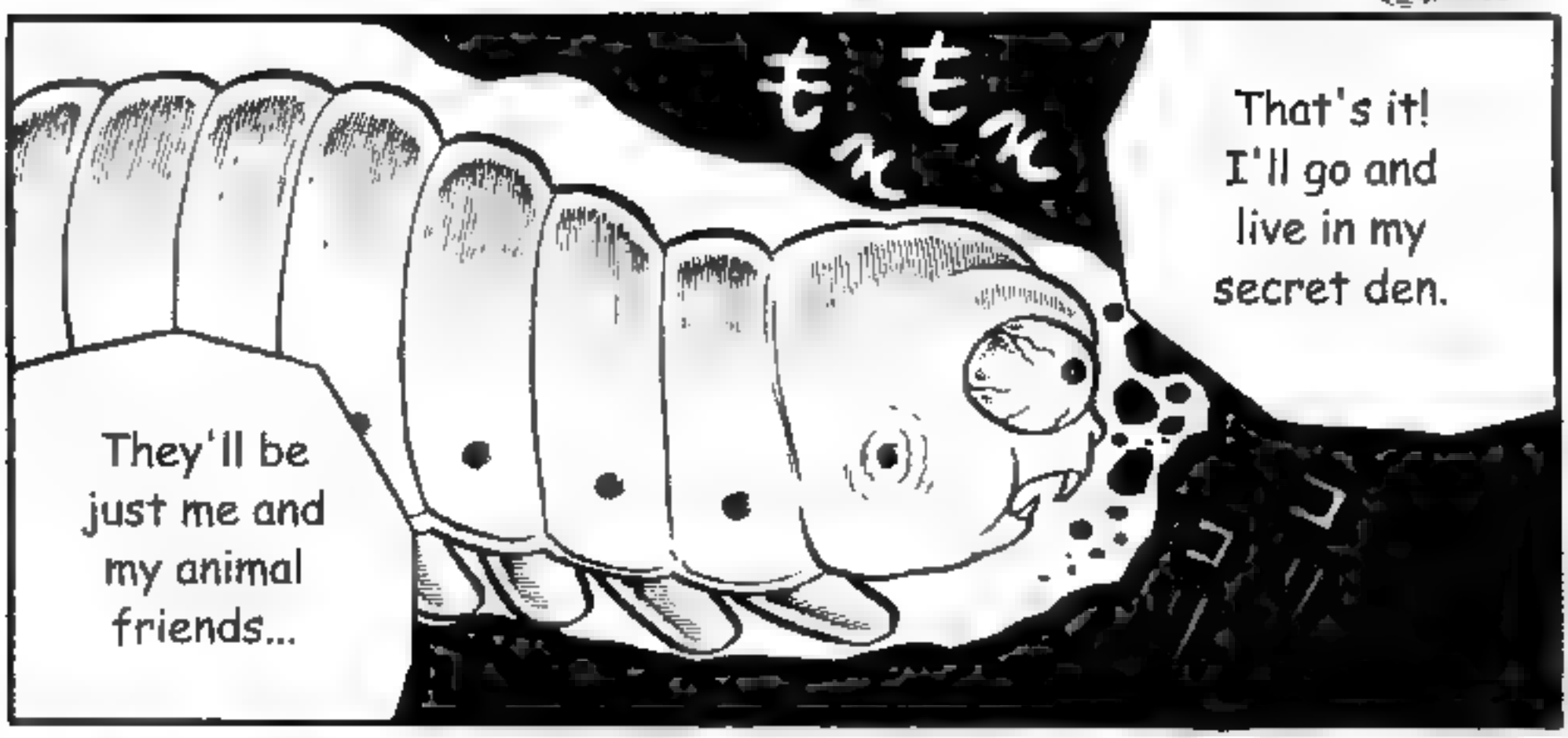
I can never live here again... not while I look like this...

Don't worry, I'm going now. I'll never disturb your lives again...

Take care of yourselves...

My family...

Good bye...


That's it! I'll go and live in my secret den.
They'll be just me and my animal friends...

I'm here!!

They'll all be so pleased to see me...

Hey!! How's everyone been?

Grrrrrrrr...

Grrrrrrr...

Grrrrrr... Ruff!! Ruff!!

What's the matter with you all? Look, it's me!!

Sssssssss!!

Grrrr rrr...

Nyeeeo wwww!!!

Wh-wh-what are all you doing?!! It's me!! Sanpei!!

Yelp... yelp...!!

Grrrr rrrr!!

Ruff... ruff... grrrrrrr!!

Snarl... snarl...

Ruff...
ruff...
grrrrrrrr!!

Yelp...
yelp...!!

Grrrr
rrrr!!

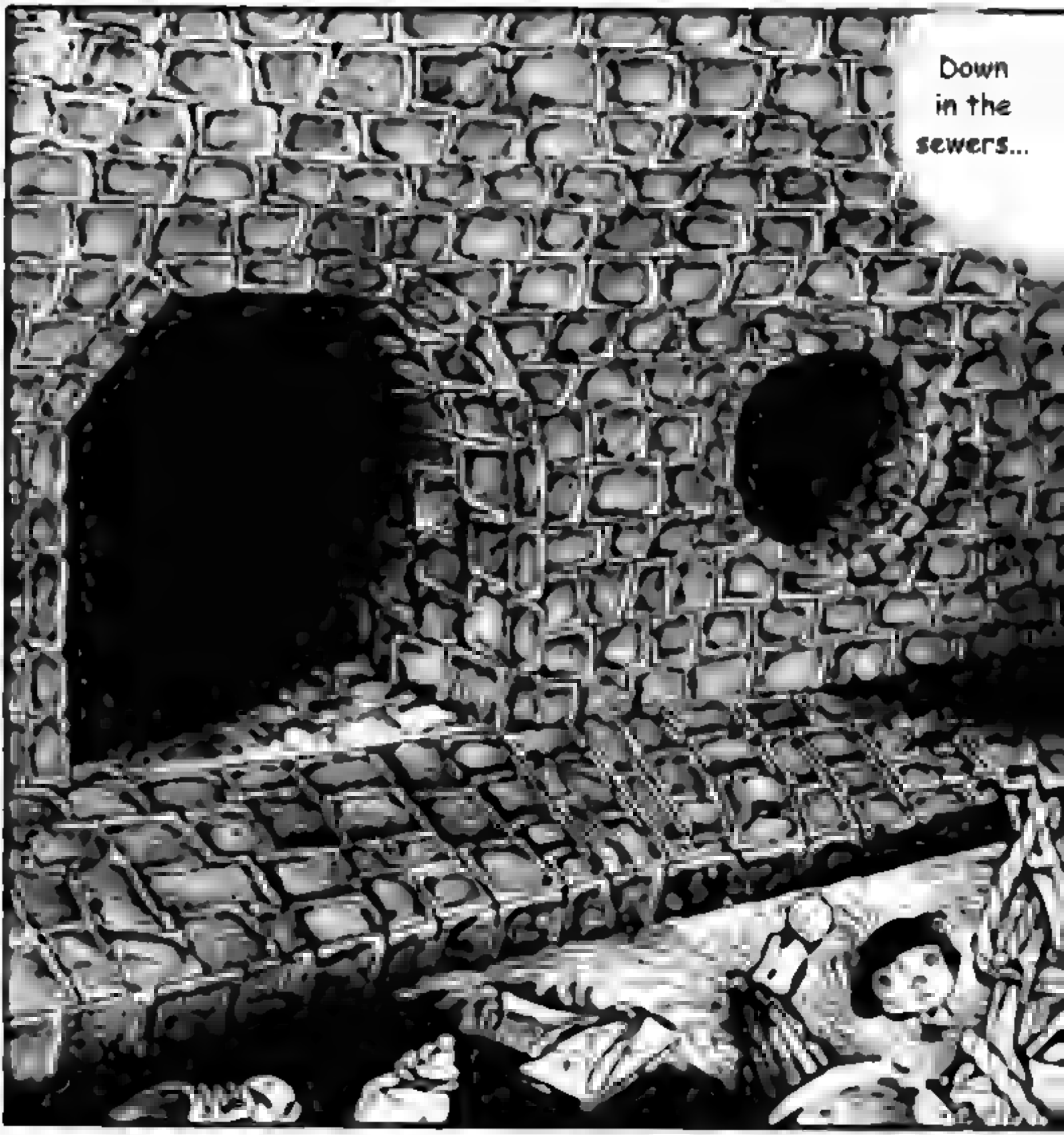
Sanpei's secret den was no longer the paradise he once knew.

How could they turn on me like that...!!

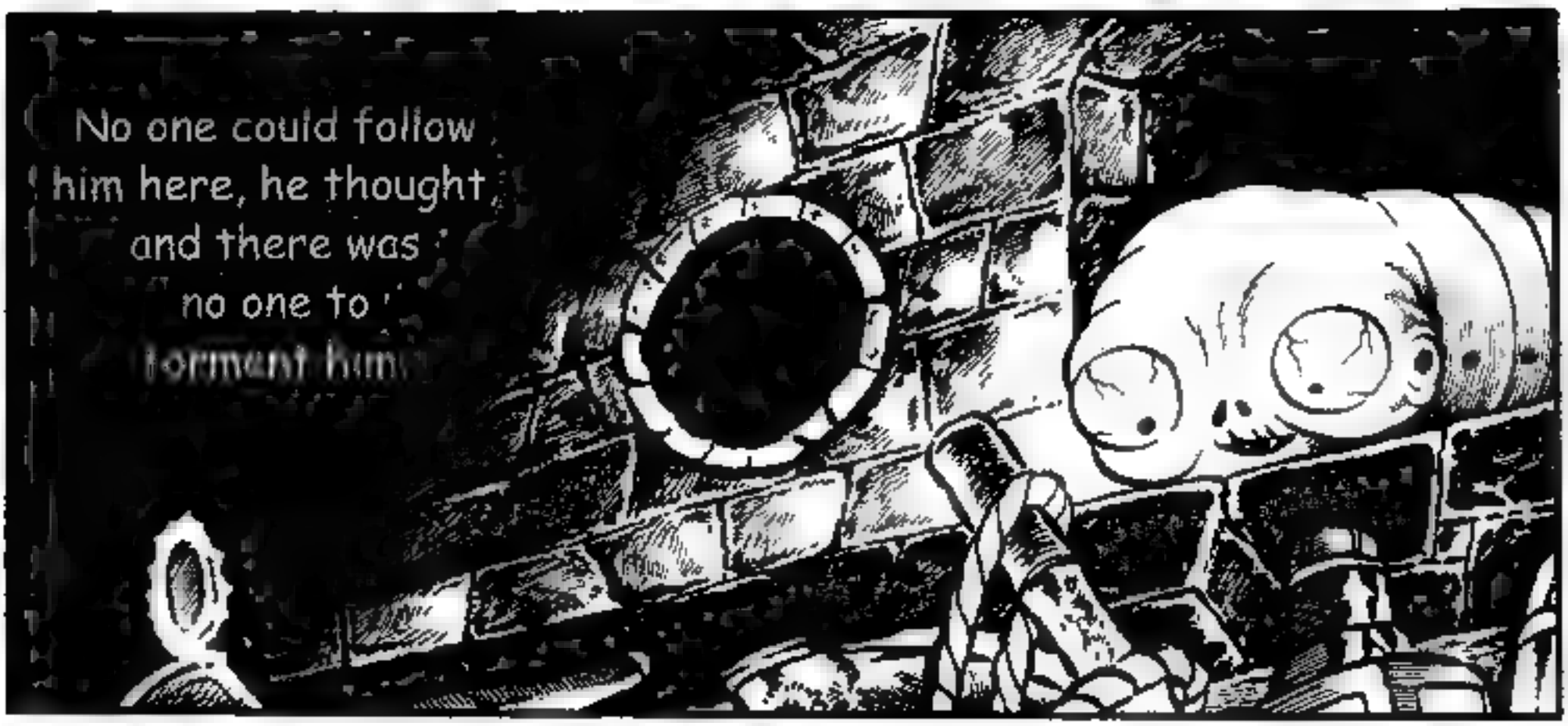
And so Sanpei went in search of a place where he could live in peace.

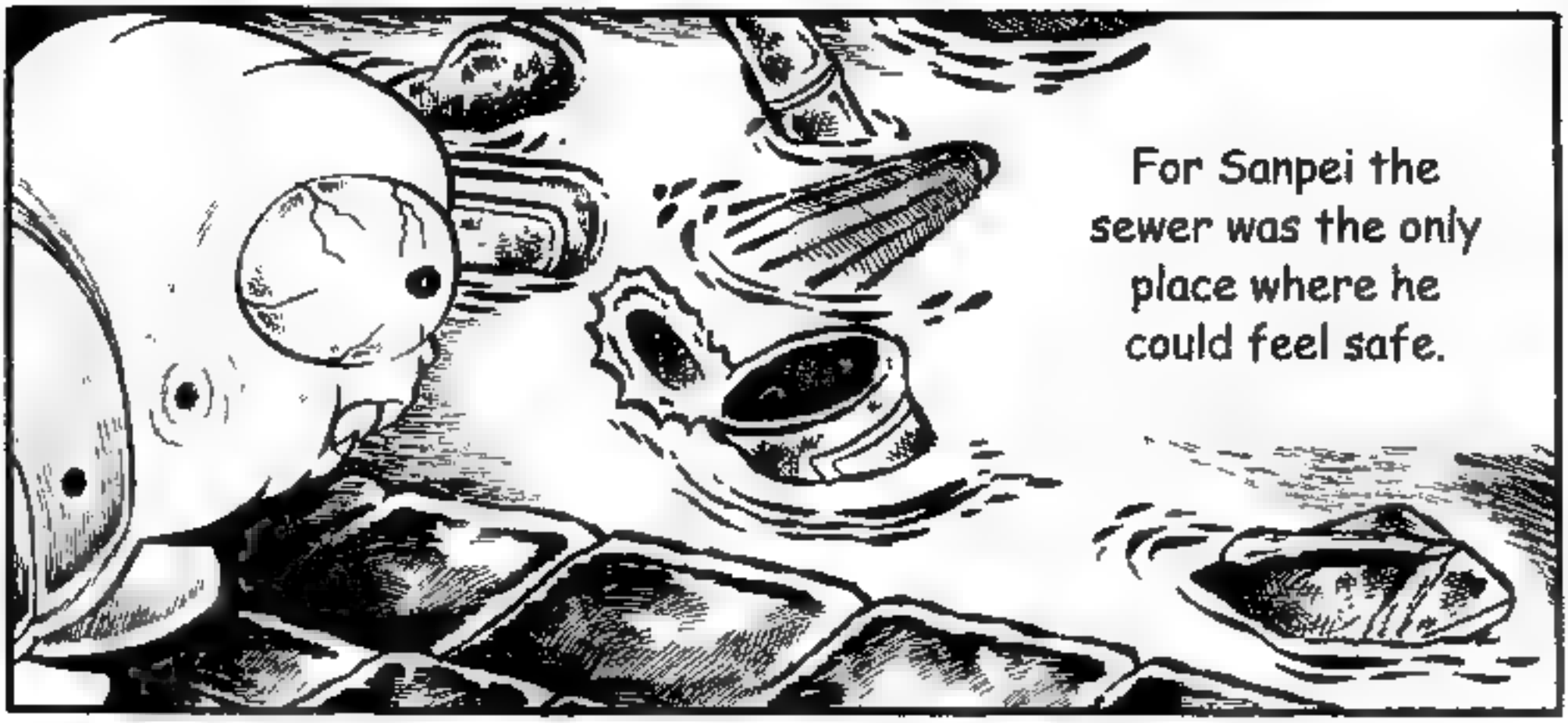
But first he had to burrow deep into the ground.

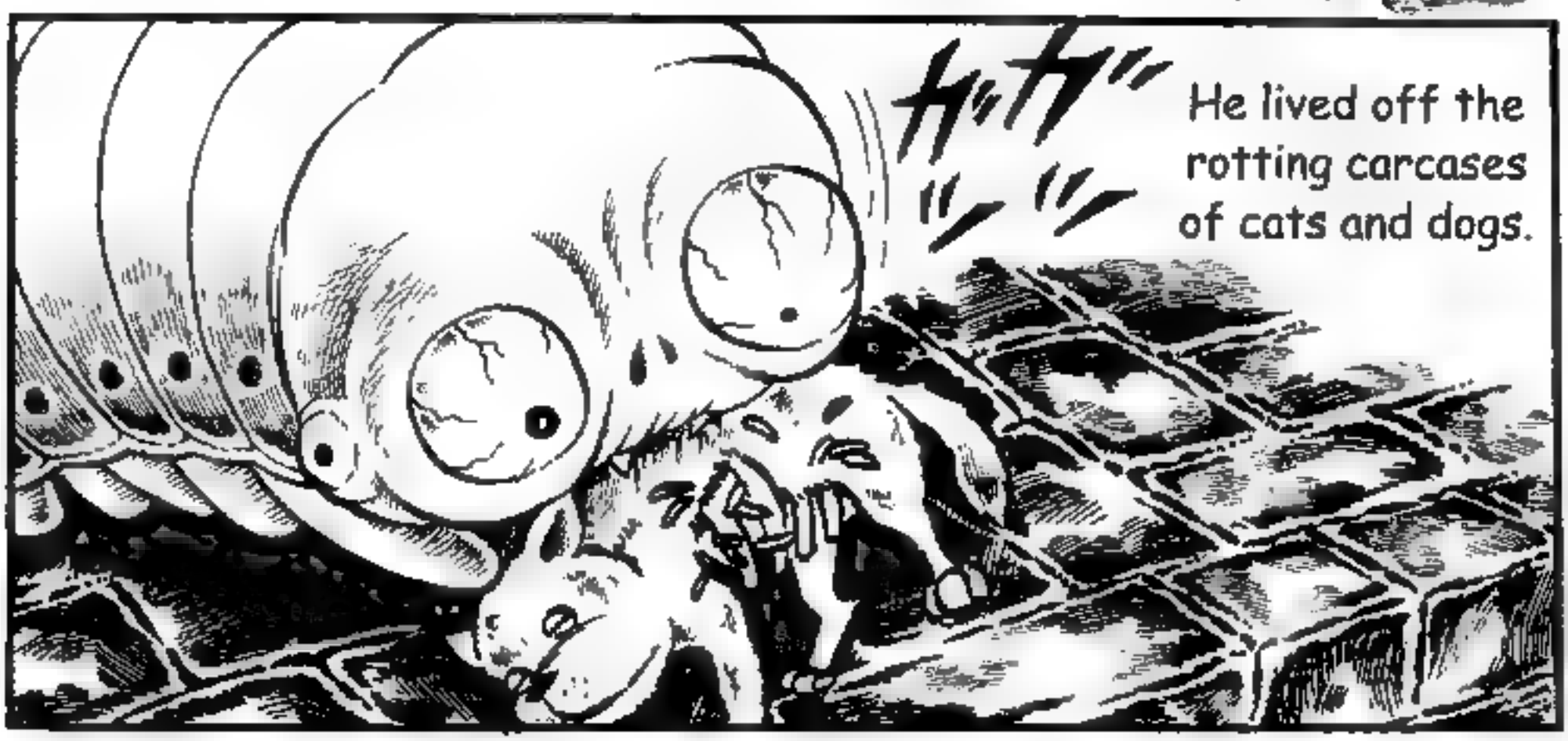
Home Sweet Sewer

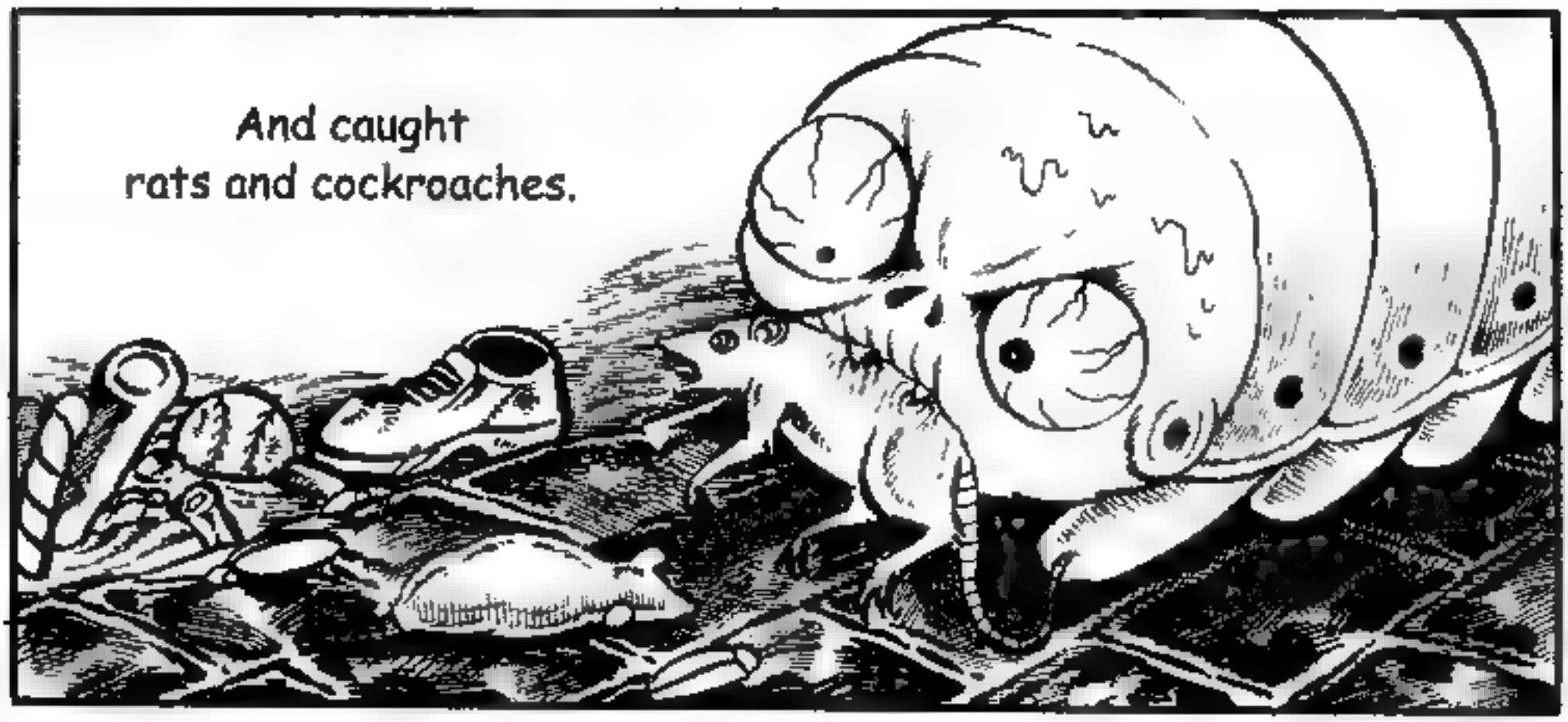


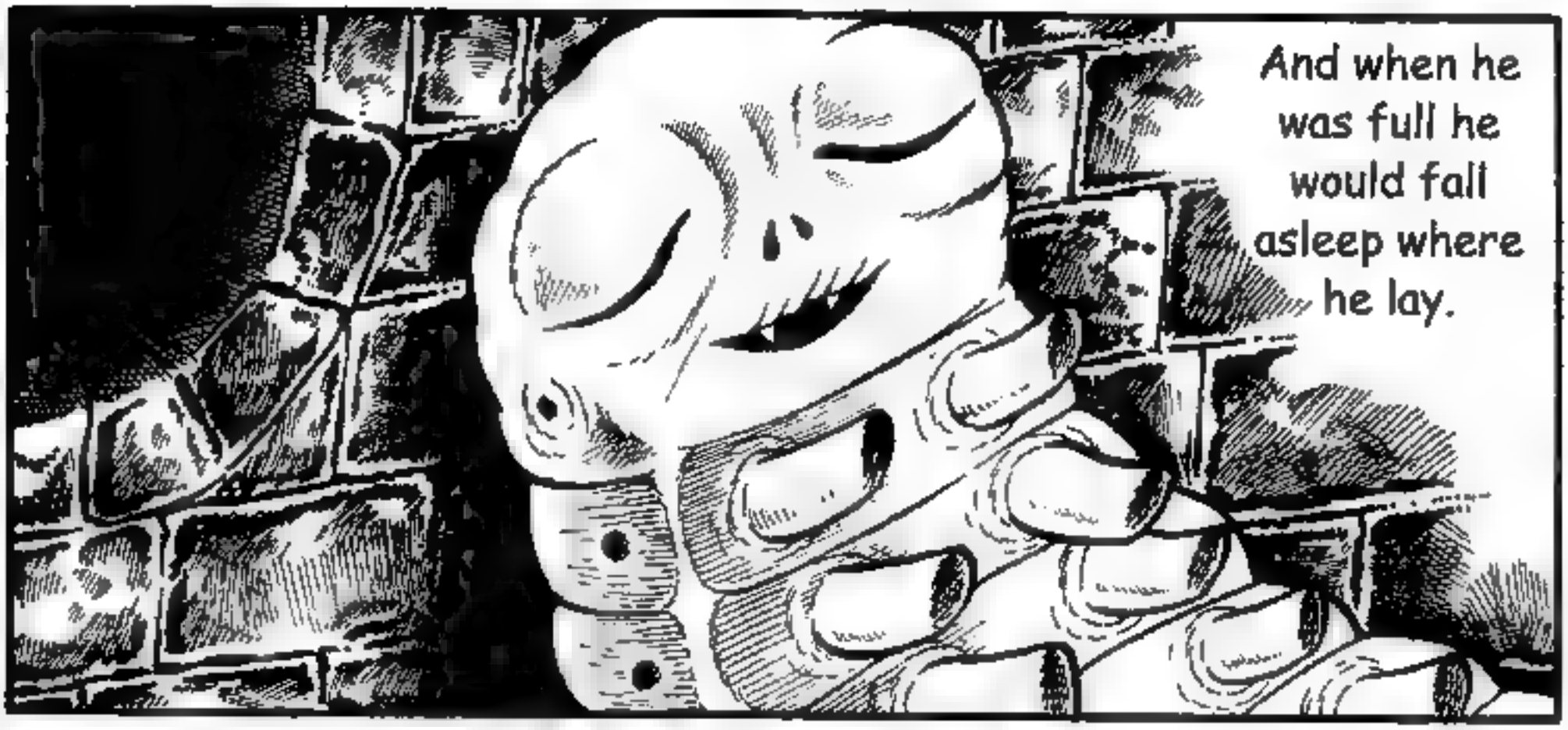
After three days of tunneling, Sanpei came across a sewer.


No one could follow him here, he thought and there was no one to torment him


For Sanpei the sewer was the only place where he could feel safe.


He lived off the rotting carcases of cats and dogs.


And caught rats and cockroaches.


And when he was full he would fall asleep where he lay.

At bath times Sanpei would dive into the polluted water, oblivious of the garbage that floated around him. He lived everyday as if it were his last, carefree and happy.

Everyday I feel more and more alive!!

I've never enjoyed myself more!!

I never had this much fun when I was a human...! How strange the way everything's turned out.

Sanpei flourished in his new environment and grew stronger and stronger.

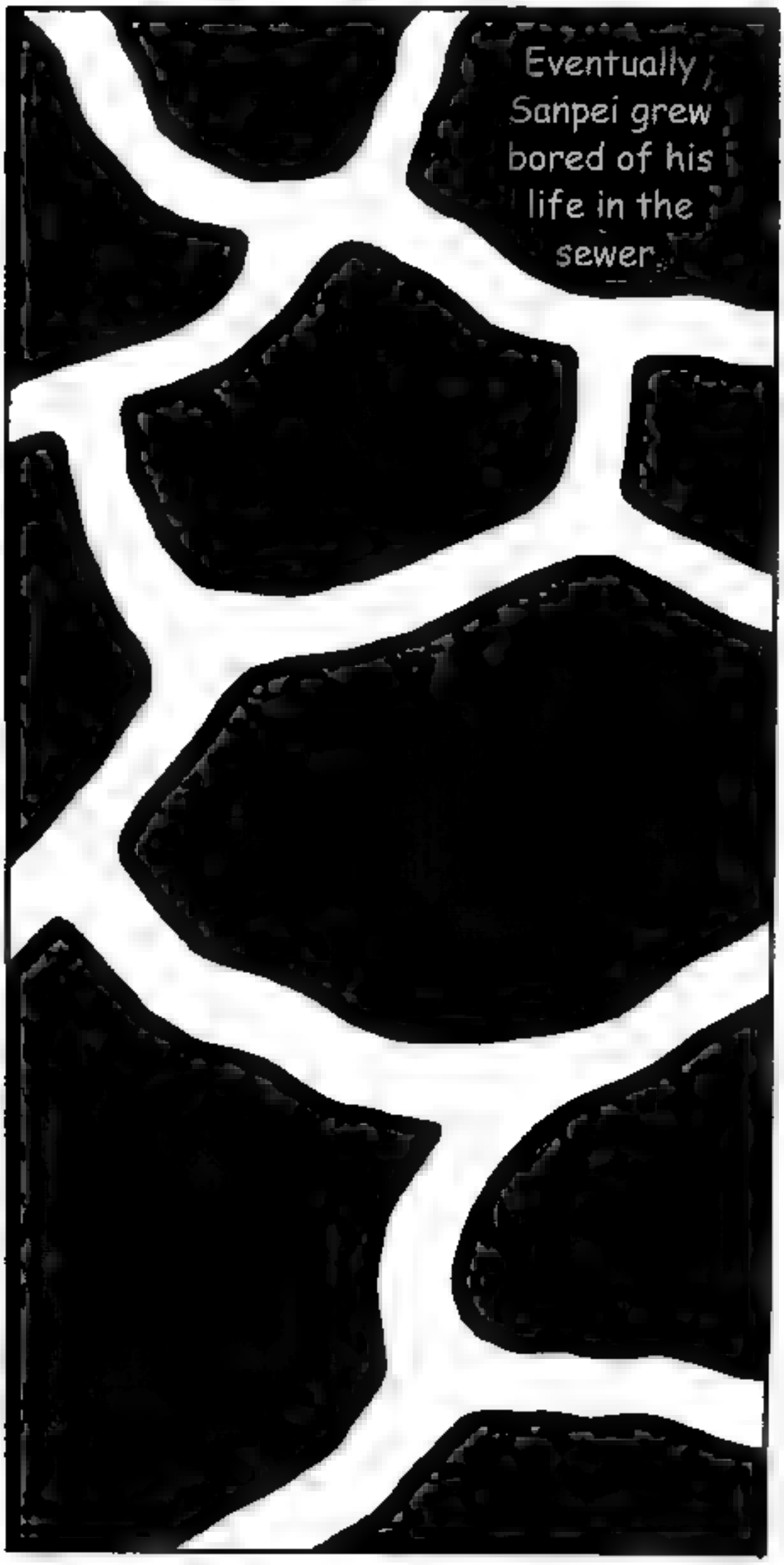
From his head sprouted a bright red horn.

Along his back small colorful spikes appeared.

But Sanpei had yet to learn of the power that he now possessed.

And on his tail grew a set of deadly pincers even redder than his horn.

Adventure, freedom, and loneliness



One day Sanpei found himself in a neon-lit backstreet.

This was his first glimpse of the outside world.

バー
There were women with painted faces
Eh...who's that peepin' outta there?
And drunk men...
Who the hell are you? How dare you spy on me like that!! I'll teach you, you sneaky bastard!!
バーウッフン

That's weird. Who'd wanna hide down there?

ハッ!!

Ah!! He's seen me!!

Gyeeeh!!

Hey you!! Where're ya hidin'?!!

Damn!! It's so dark I can't see a thing!! Show yourself, you freak!!

Aghhh!! How disgusting!!

Lingerie Section

婦人物下着特別大バー

Another time he burrowed up into a department store.

And chewed up the manequins and clothes.

He found himself lost in a sake storehouse. Pools of bottled sake lay all around.

Mmm... This tastes good...

チャ チャ

Whoa!! I feel so good. Tee...hee...hee... hiccup!!... hee...hee

ギーコ ギーコ

Yeah!!

And on another evening he found a deserted park where he could play till morning...

キャバレー
レッド

On one ocassion he crawled up inside the
chimney of a factory and spent
the whole day looking out over the town.

And have as many adventures as he pleased...

But although he was now free to play all he wanted...

He was lonely.

There was something missing from his life...and he knew what it was.

.....

Sanpei decided he wanted to see the sea... he wanted to see the mountains...

And so he began to burrow...until...

I made it!!

ぼこっ

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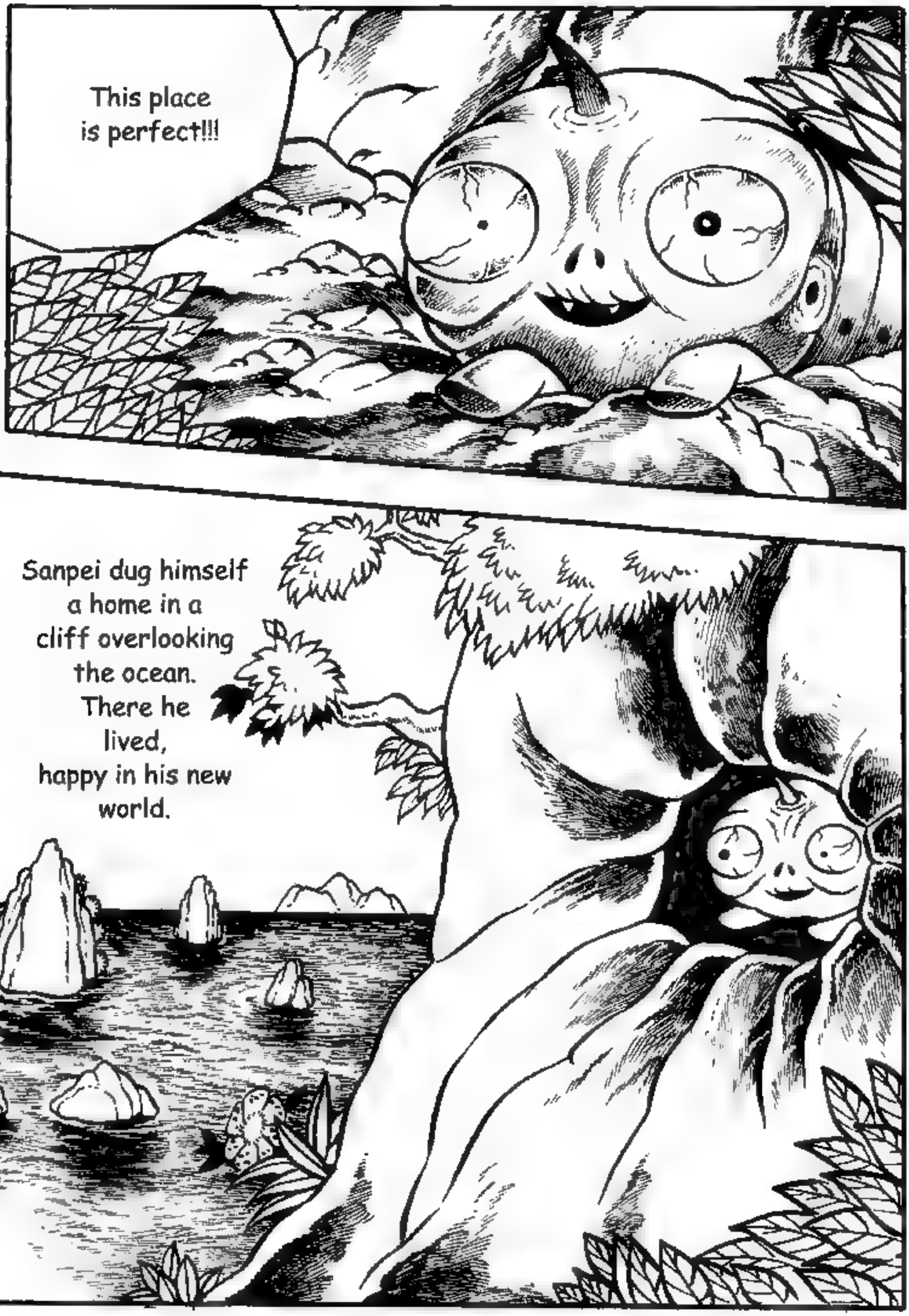
もこ

Awesome!!
This must be the
ocean!! It's
unbelievable!!

And those must be mountains in the distance !!


This place is perfect!!!
Sanpei dug himself a home in a cliff overlooking the ocean. There he lived, happy in his new world.

Yippee!!

I'm diving!!

He spent everyday walking in the mountains and playing in the sea.

This is great!!

Woaaah!!

Ahh, there's nothing like lying in the sun.

...Out in the sun!!

This is the life...

One...and...
two...
and...

Yikes!!

Aghhh!!
Everything's
spinning!!

Heeeeeee
elp!!!!

Look at me!!

I'm Tarzan!!!

ずる

Doink!!

But for all the fun he was having, Sanpei still could not shake off the loneliness he felt.

What's wrong?!!

Hey fish!! Come on, lets play!!

Argg!!

Crabs!!

ぎぎぎぎぎぎ

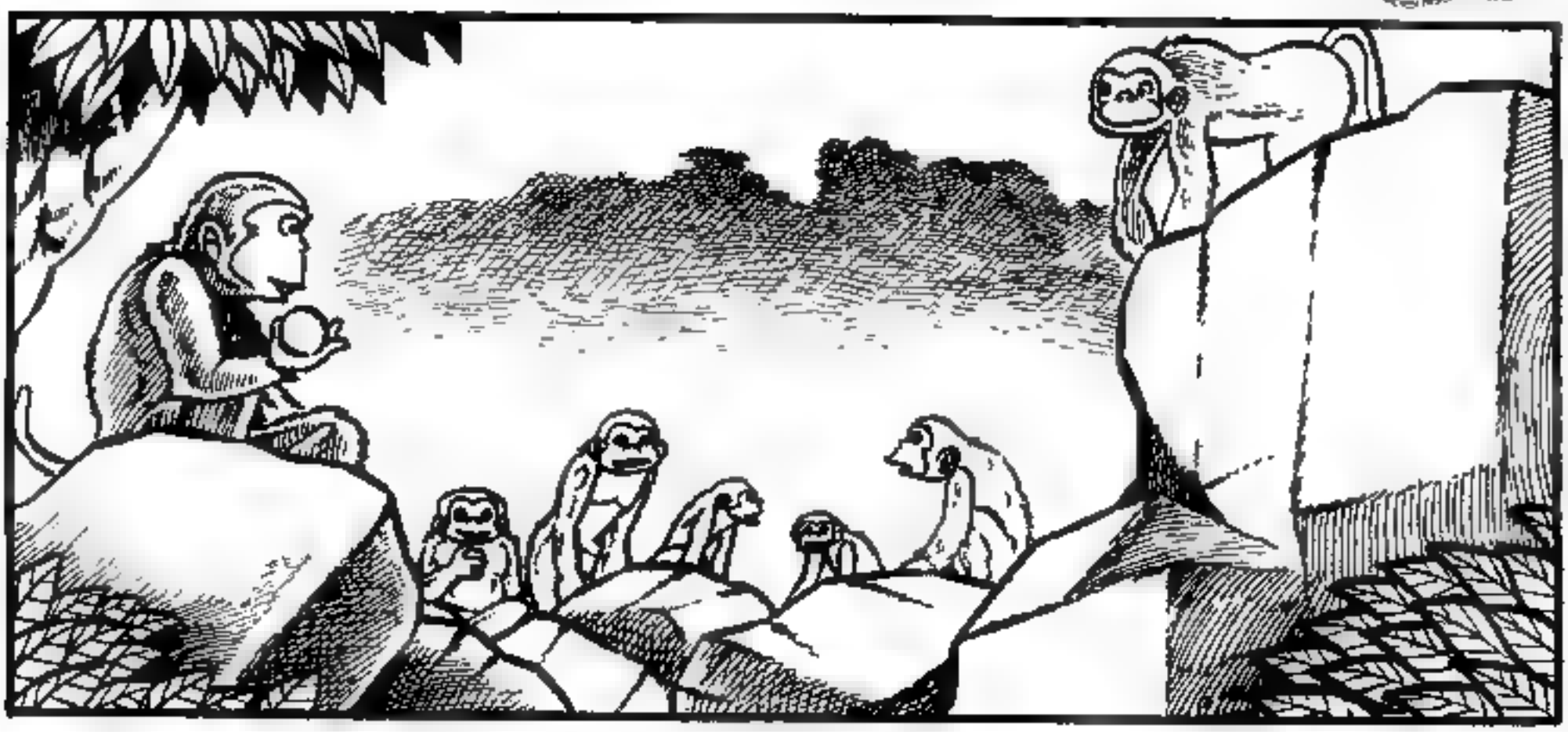
ぶくぶく

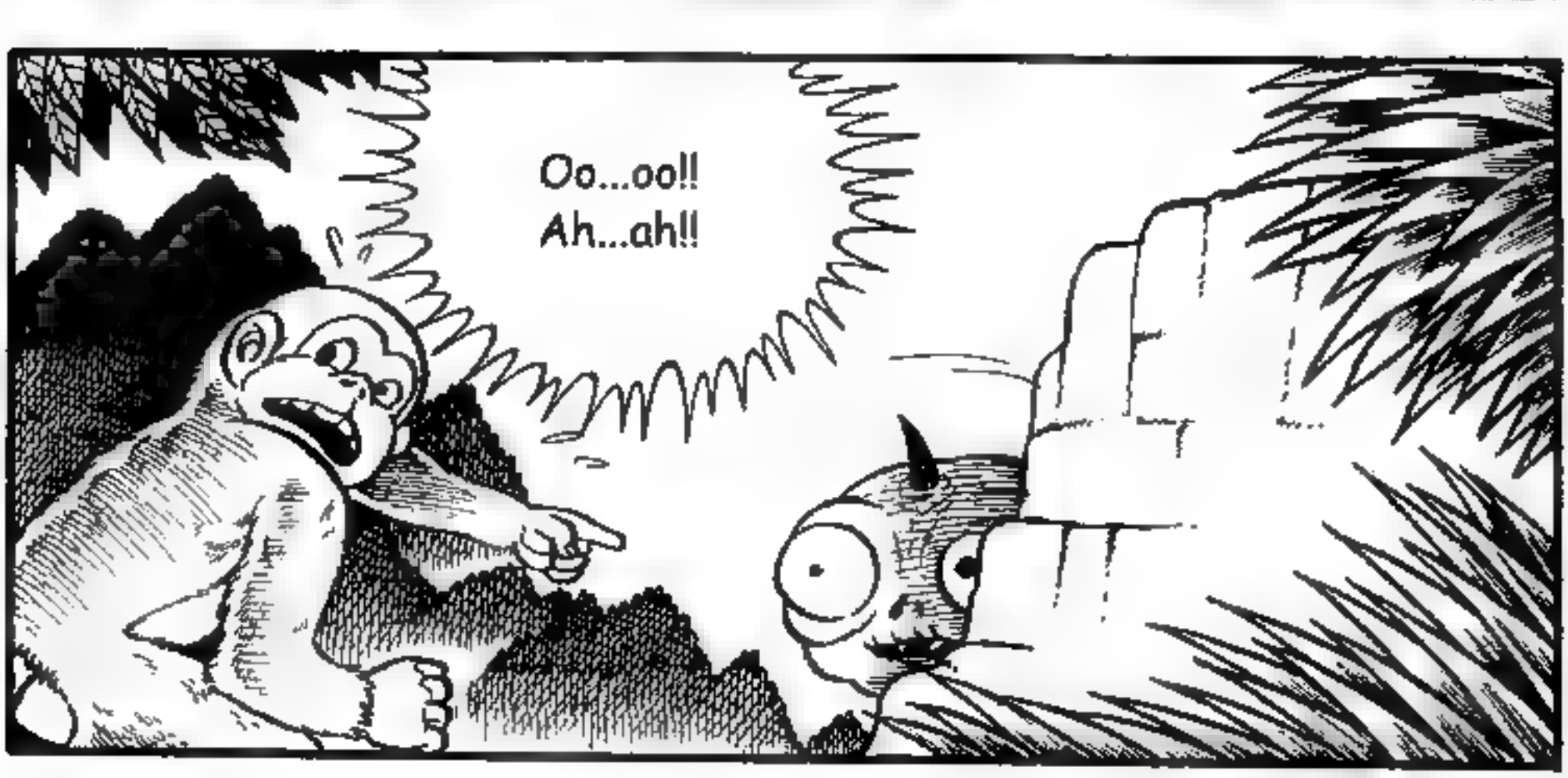
コテン

He-he-he-heeeeeeeelp!!

Why's everyone running away?!!!

!!

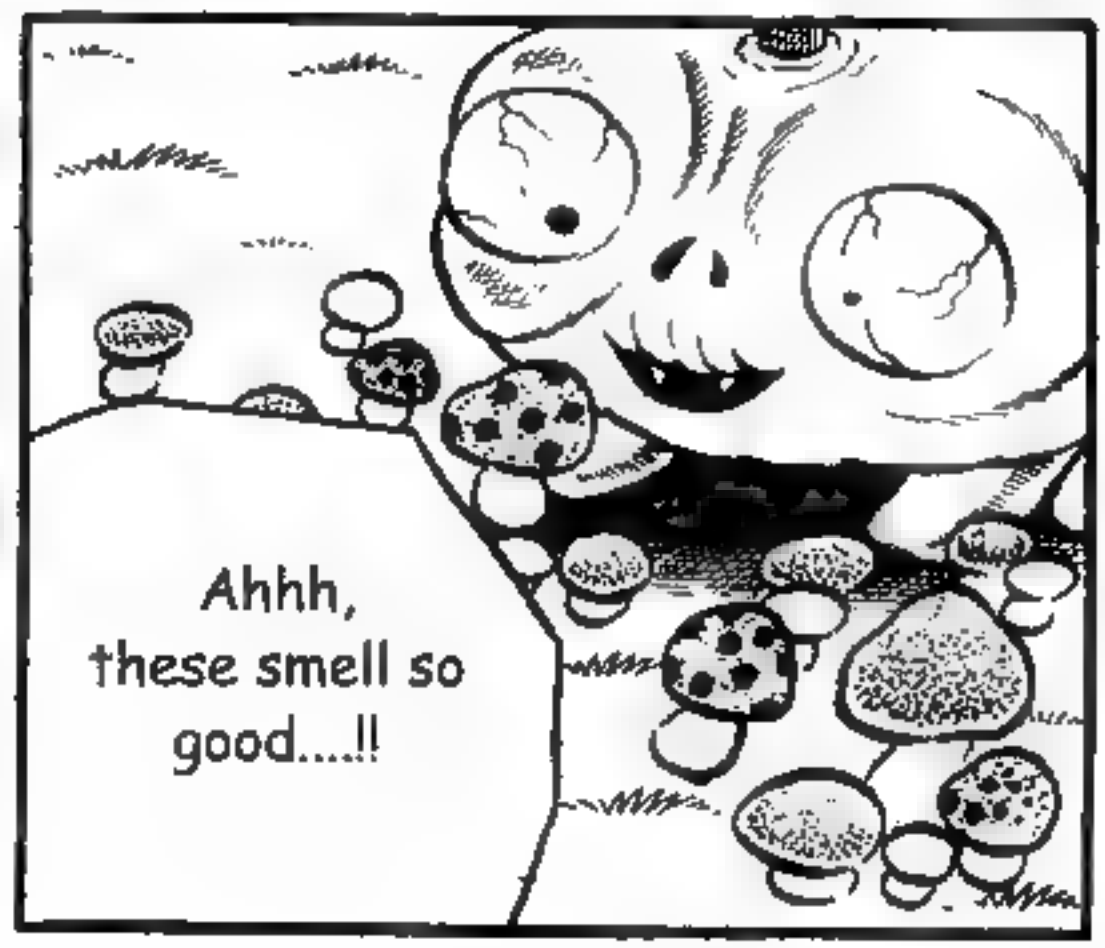



Oo...oo!!
Ah...ah!!

I only wanna be your friend.....

ヒ°
ヒ°
ピ°
!!
Hi there!
ヒ°
ヒ°
When the other animals saw Sanpei all they saw was a poisonous bug. Only Sanpei didn't realize how dangerous he really was.
Tsk!!

One day Sanpei came across a clump of tasty looking mushrooms.



...but they were so good....

I've pigged out...

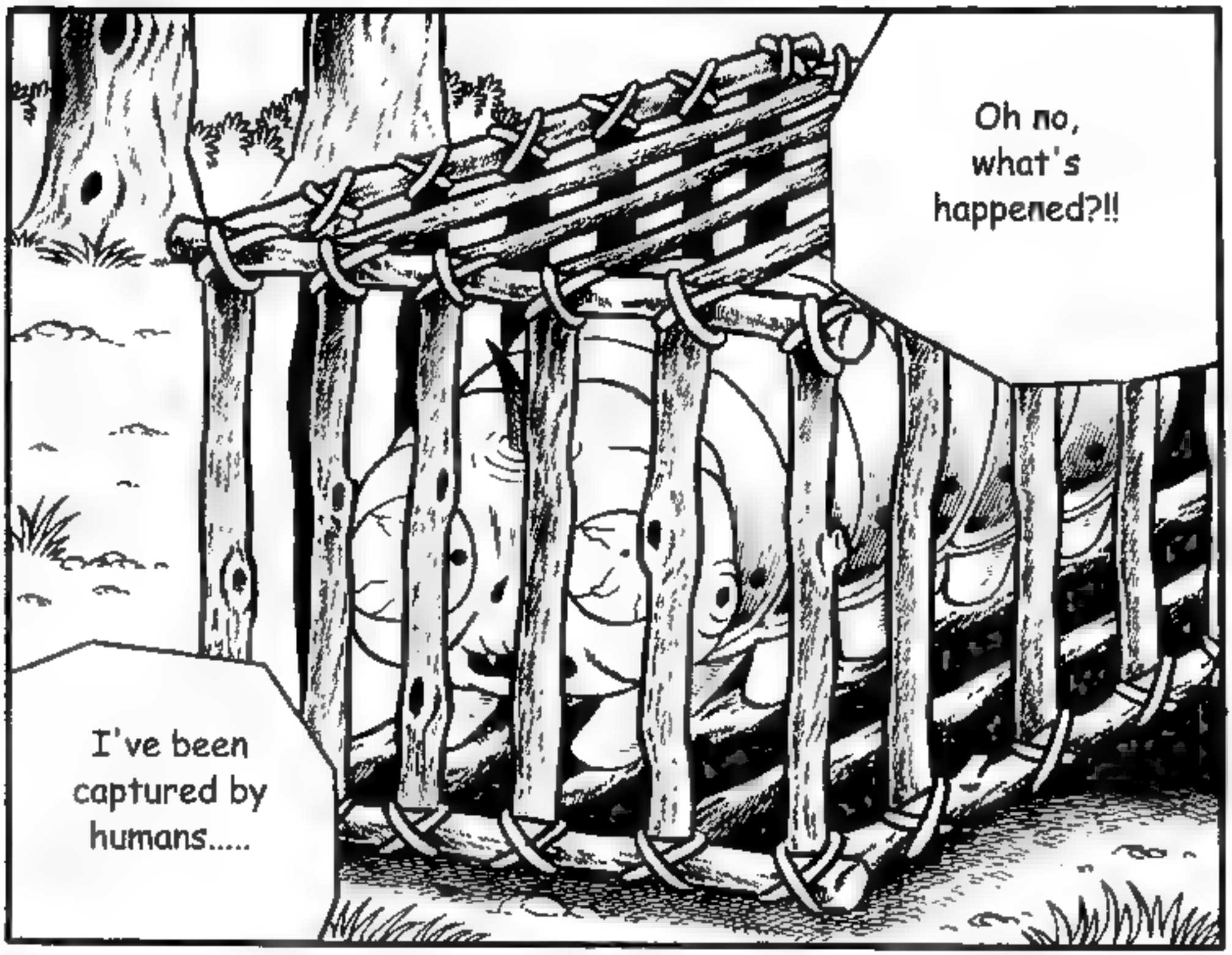
Oh no...those mushrooms must've been poisonous!!

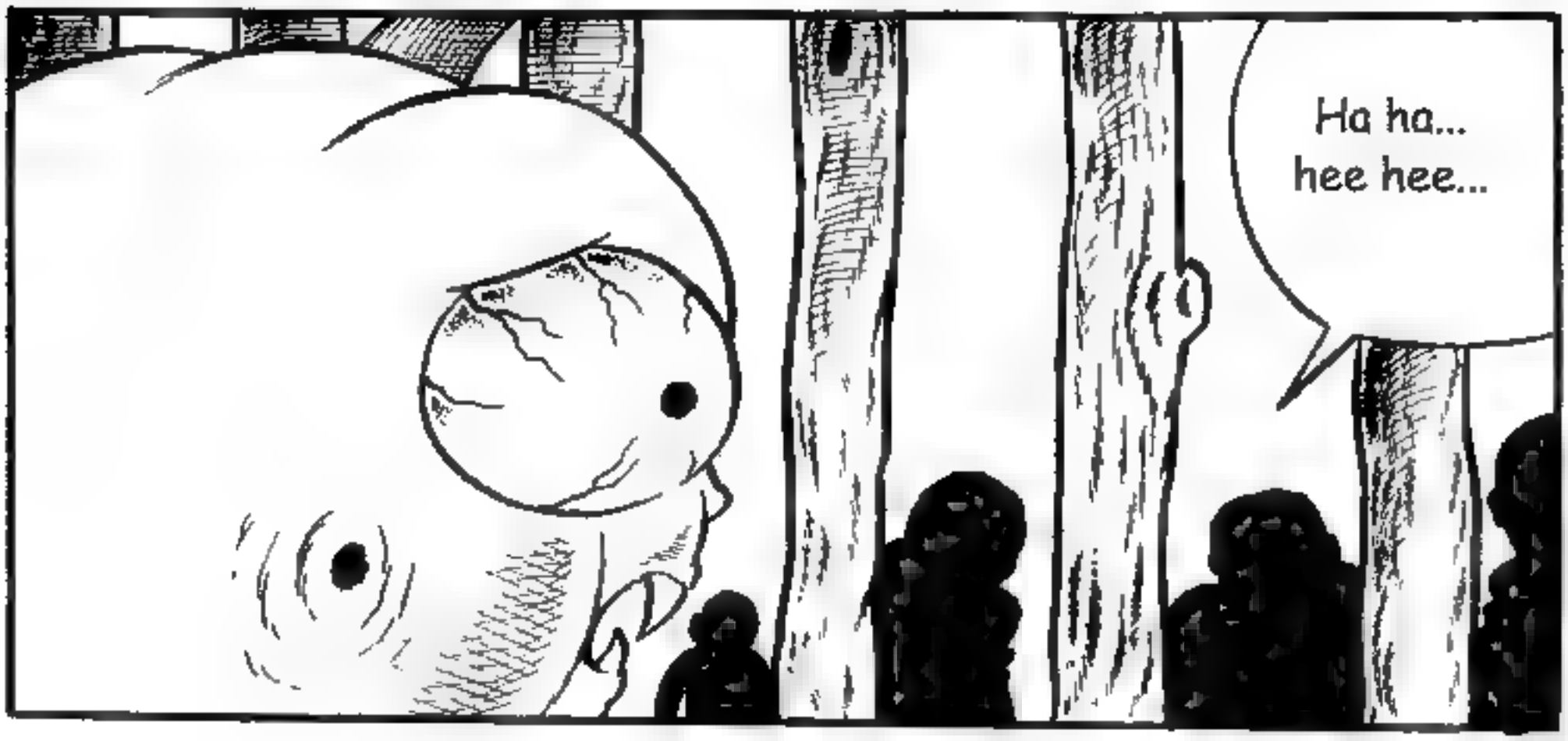
がばっ

Ugh... something's wrong...

Aghhhh... I can't move...!!

The Bug Boy


Oh no, what's happened?!!
I've been captured by humans.....


Ha ha... hee hee...

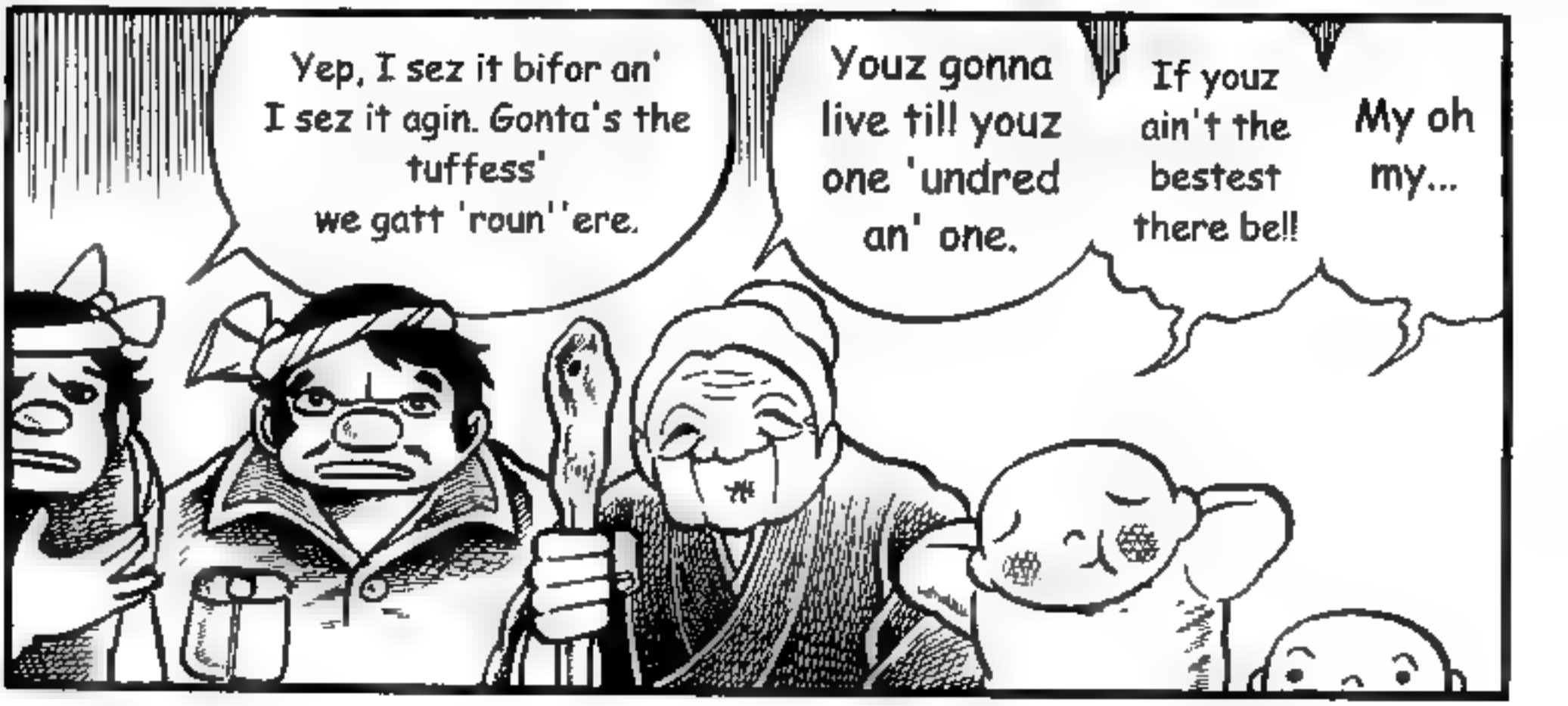
Ah di'n't believe it woz reel when ah firs' seen it!!

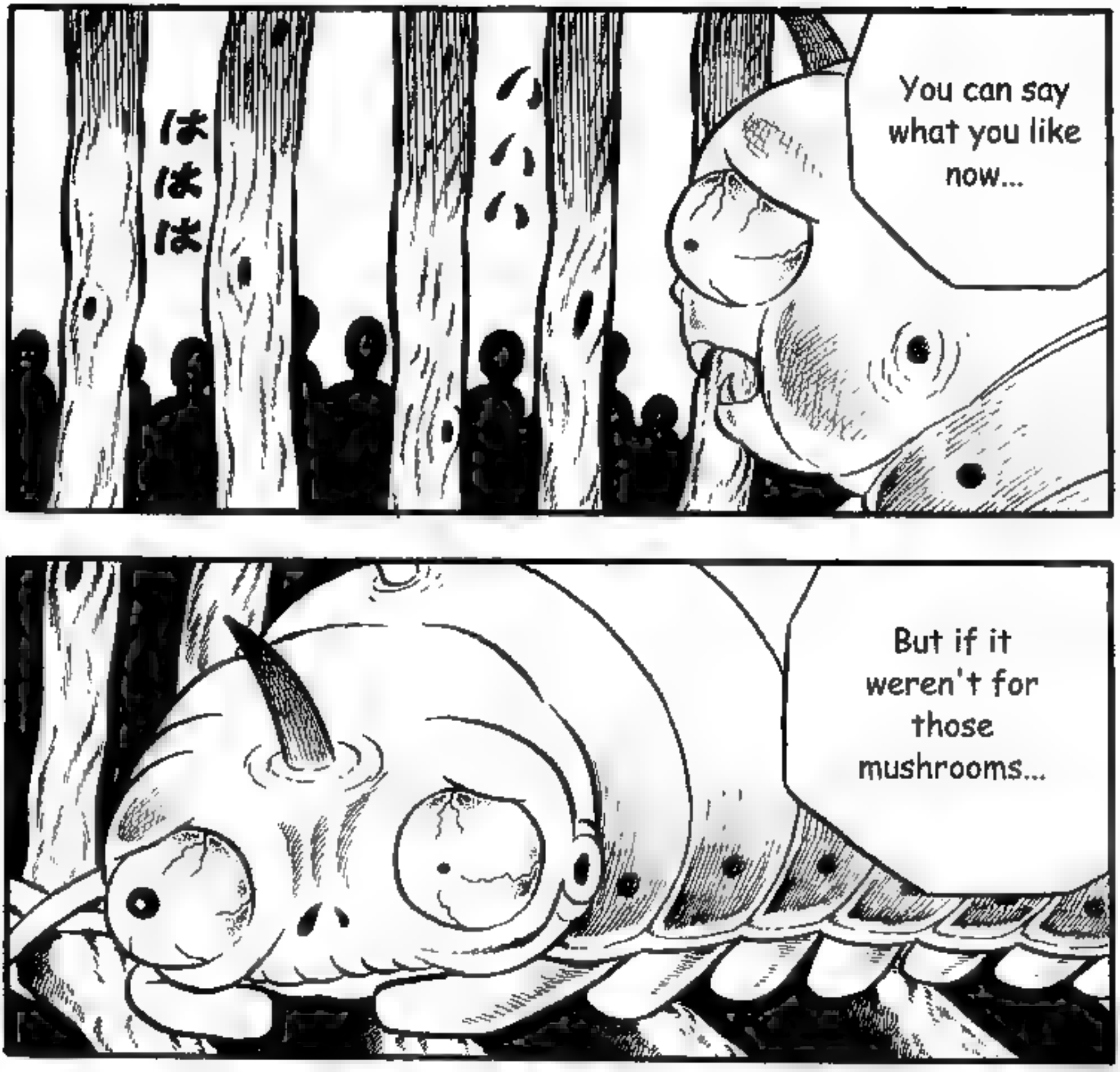
Ah mytant be smart, but ah'm the strongest there be 'roun' 'ere.

Ah grabs it bah its red ol' 'orn an' "thwump!!" ... ah dun woop its ass.

No way ah'm ah gonna let some 'nsect beat me!!

An' nah lookee 'ere.
Wodda youz all think 'bout
mah liddle monstah!!!


Yep, I sez it bifor an'
I sez it agin. Gonta's the
tuffess'
we gatt 'roun''ere.
Youz gonna
live till youz
one 'undred
an' one.
If youz
ain't the
bestest
there be!!
My oh
my...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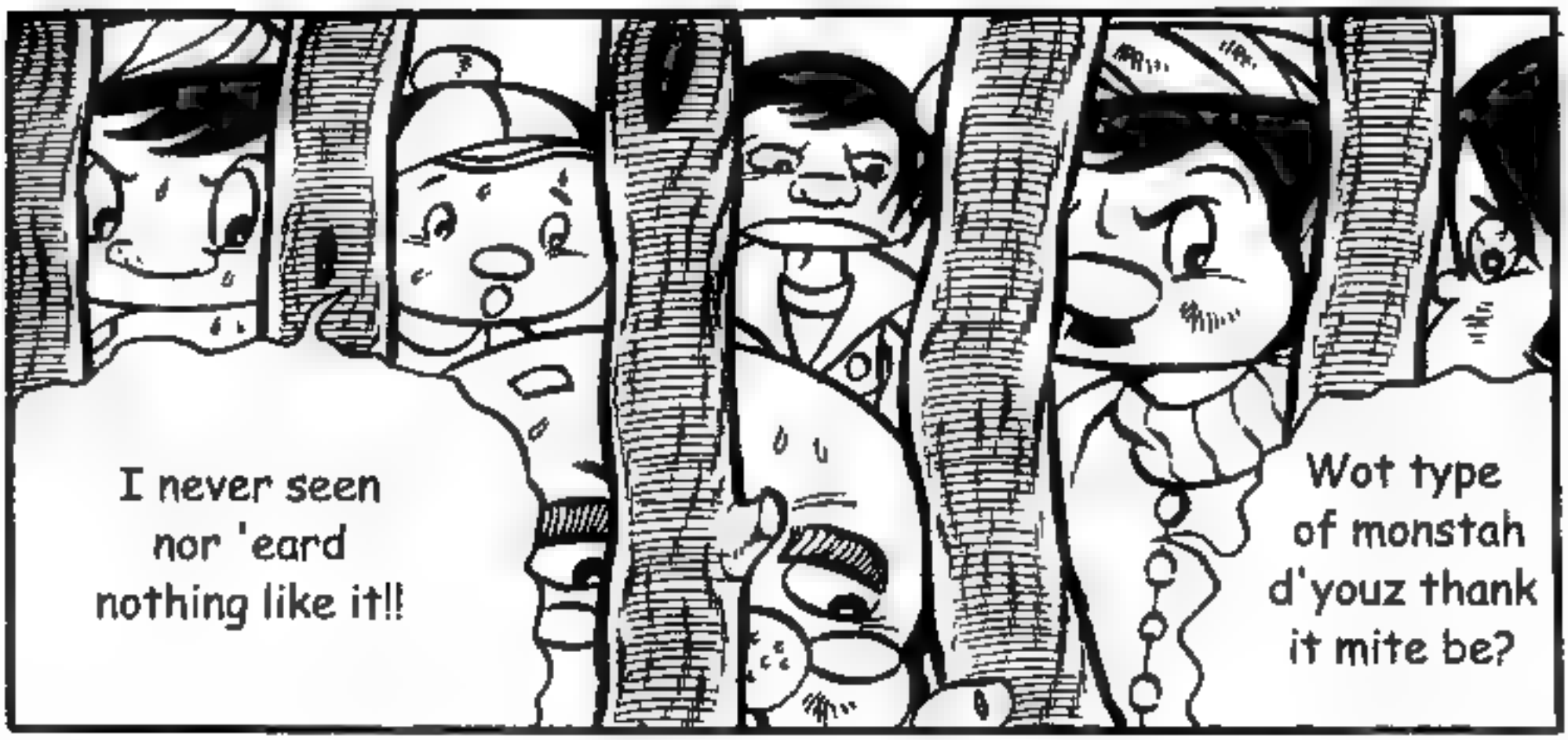
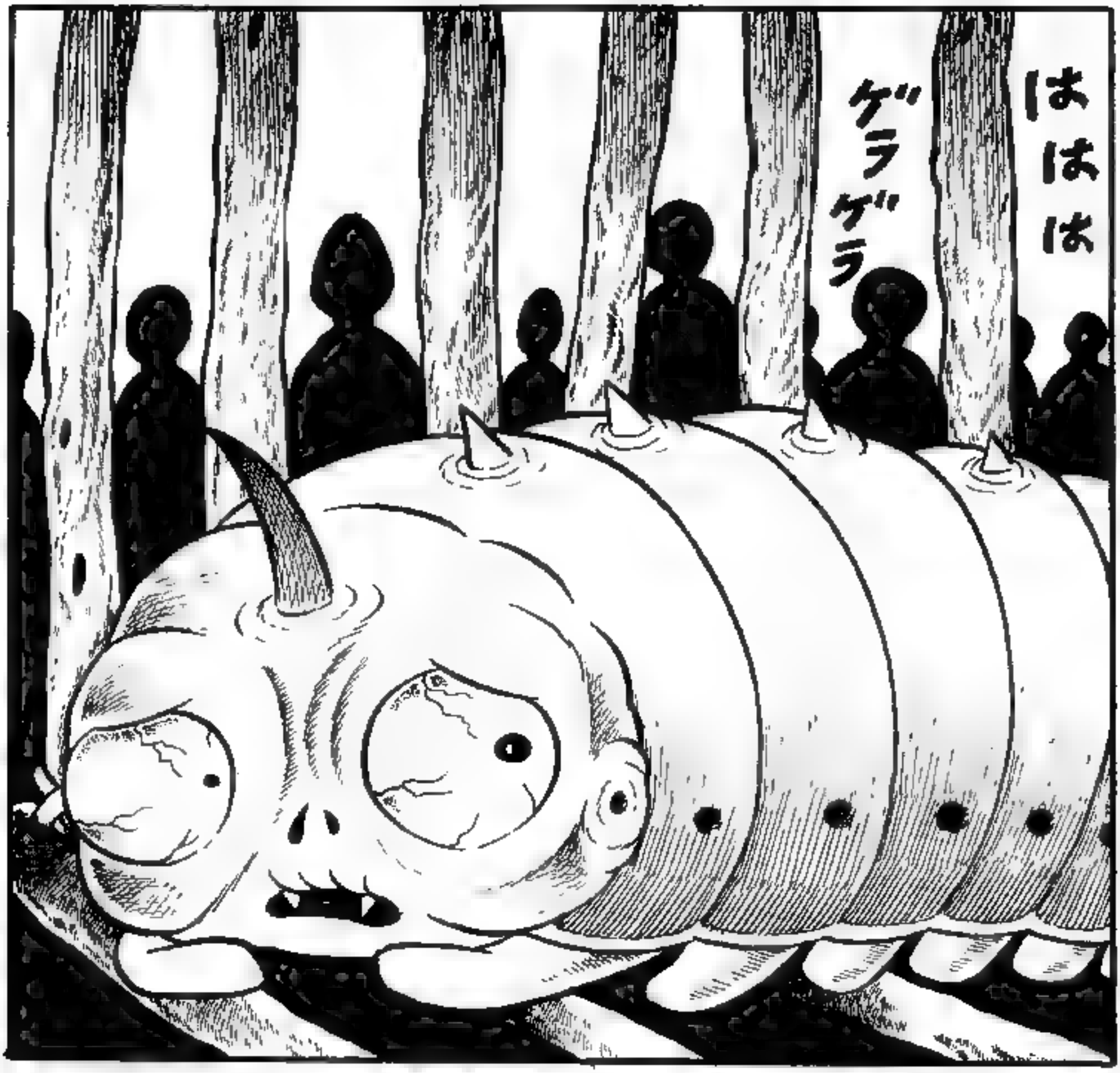
You can say what you like now...
But if it weren't for those mushrooms...
Wotta Godawful tearfyin' creecha it be!!


I never seen nor 'eard nothing like it!!
Wot type of monstah d'youz thank it mite be?

Tha' be one hell of a good ideah!
If them newspaper folks get wind of this, they'z gonna make youz a big ol' star Gonta.

Heez gonna live for 'ever a'never.
Our liddle village iz gonna 'ave it'sone reeyal life star!!
Big star eh? Tha' rain't no bad ideah!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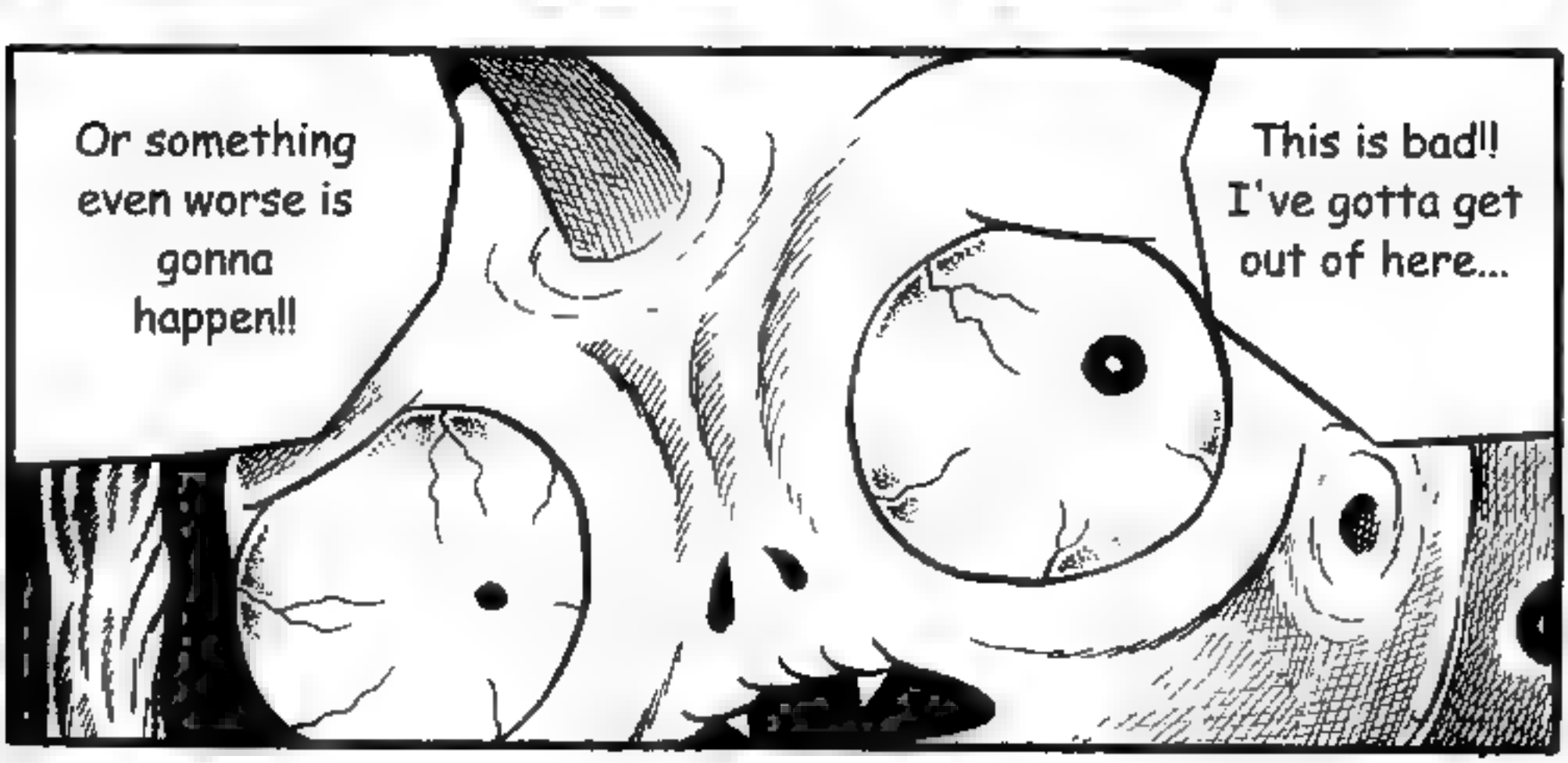
Or something even worse is gonna happen!!
This is bad!! I've gotta get out of here...

That night...

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ゲラ

Shhh!! D'ya hear that?!!

Weez gonna have ah ver'yone star.

Con-gratt-you-lay-shonz boyz.

My Lord in Heaven!! Will youz tek a lookee at that!!

Wot?!! Iz gotta be that creecha!!

.....Oh no!!! They've seen me!!

It's gitting away!!

It's no good. They're gonna catch me!!

Weez gotta catch it 'for it gits away!!

Come back 'ere monstah creecha!!!

Aghhhh! Iz gone and stuck me!!

Gettowda here!!

Splat!!

Umf!!

For Sanpei, it was like a dream...
A merciless, vengeful dream in which
the murderous power that he unknowligly
possessed was finally unleashed upon his enemies.

Ahm'a gonna die.

Aghhhh.. somebody help me...

When he realized what had happened Sanpei made his way back to the sewer where he'd once lived.

No one is gonna ever come down here.

This has gotta be the best place for me.

I'll never leave again. Nothing good can come of it.

I don't have to worry about finding food...

I can handle the loneliness...

What's this? A newspaper...!!

Ah! Oh no!!

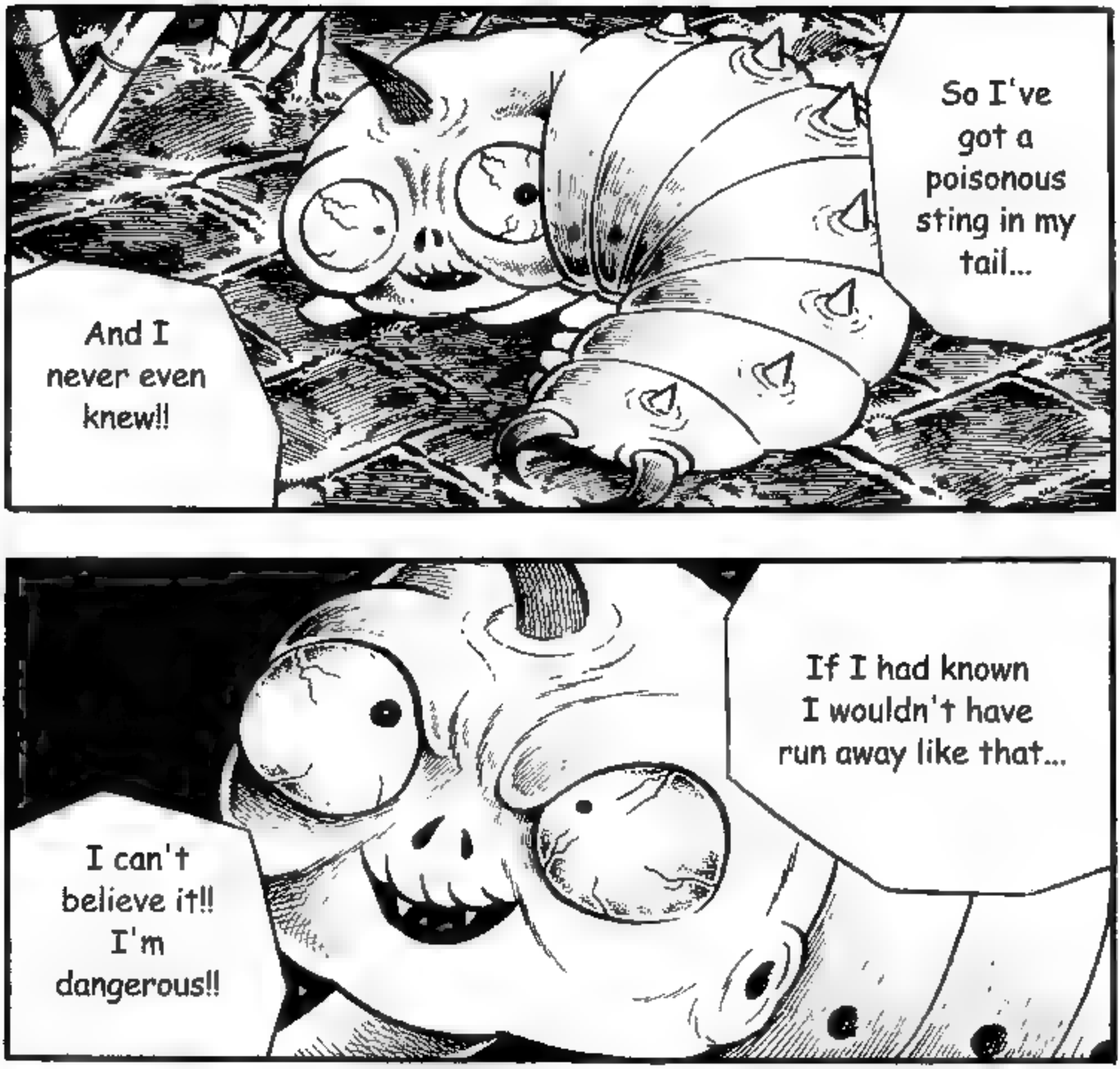
"Creature Kills Six with Poisonous Sting"

怪物現わる!!
六人毒針で殺される
恐怖にふるえあんな怪物

漫画家借金を苦に殺……

怪物が六人
殺されたって!!
そんな!!

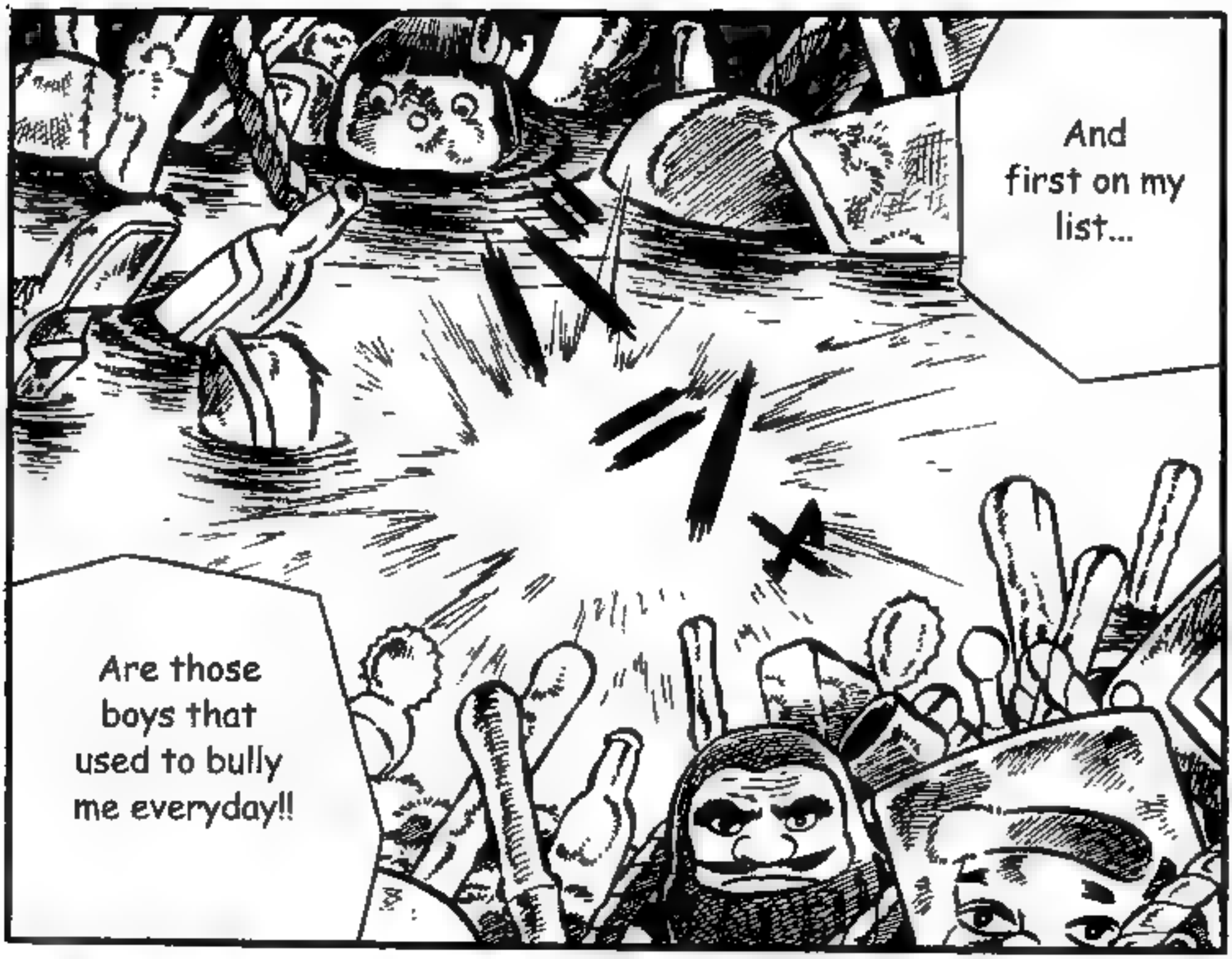
What?!! I killed six people??!! It must've been in that village....


So I've got a poisonous sting in my tail...
And I never even knew!!
If I had known I wouldn't have run away like that...
I can't believe it!! I'm dangerous!!
Amazing!! Me? A dangerous killer!!
And all along I thought I was just some wimpy bug!!

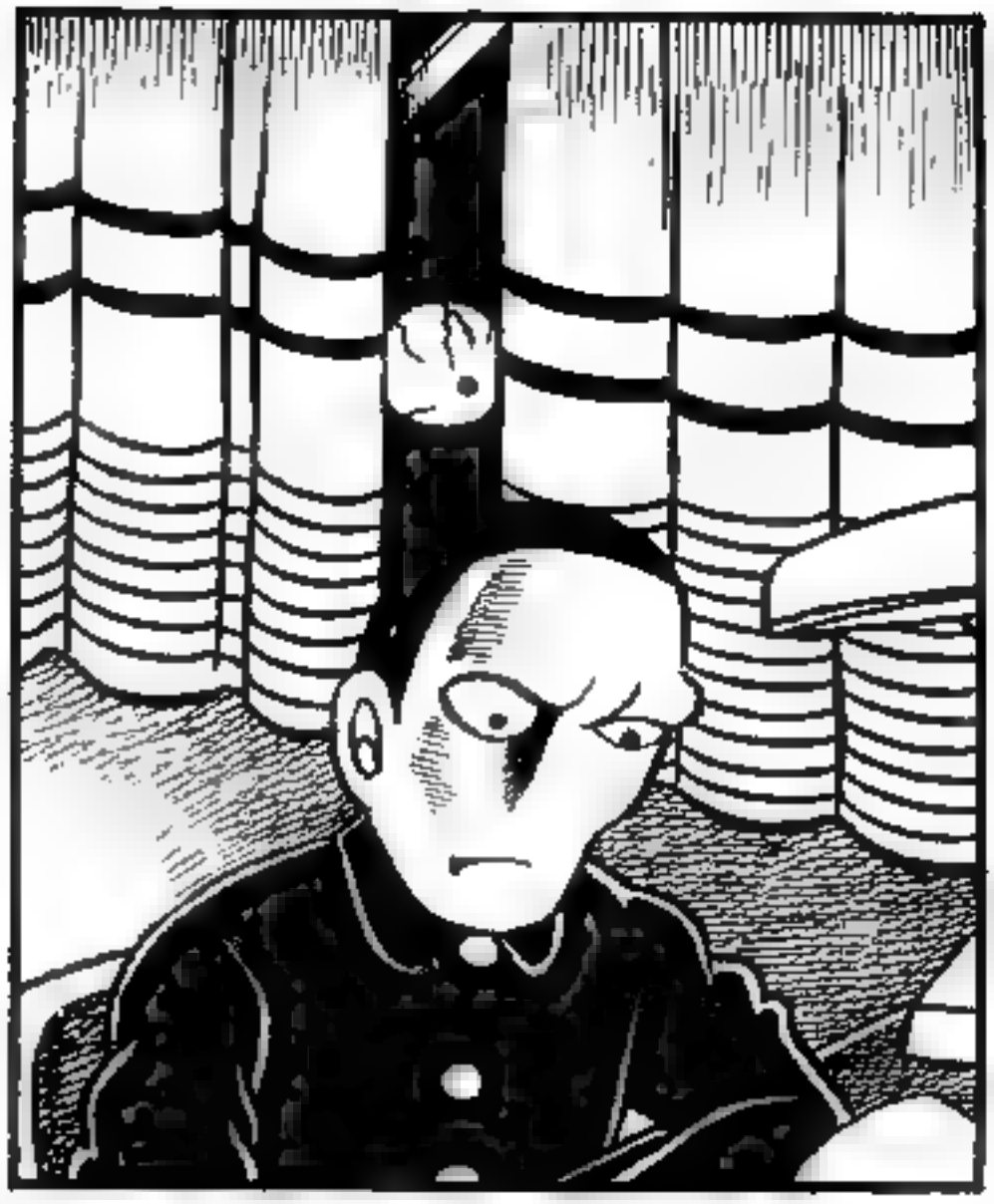
I'm a killer!!
A poisonous bug boy
killer coming
to get you!! Hah!

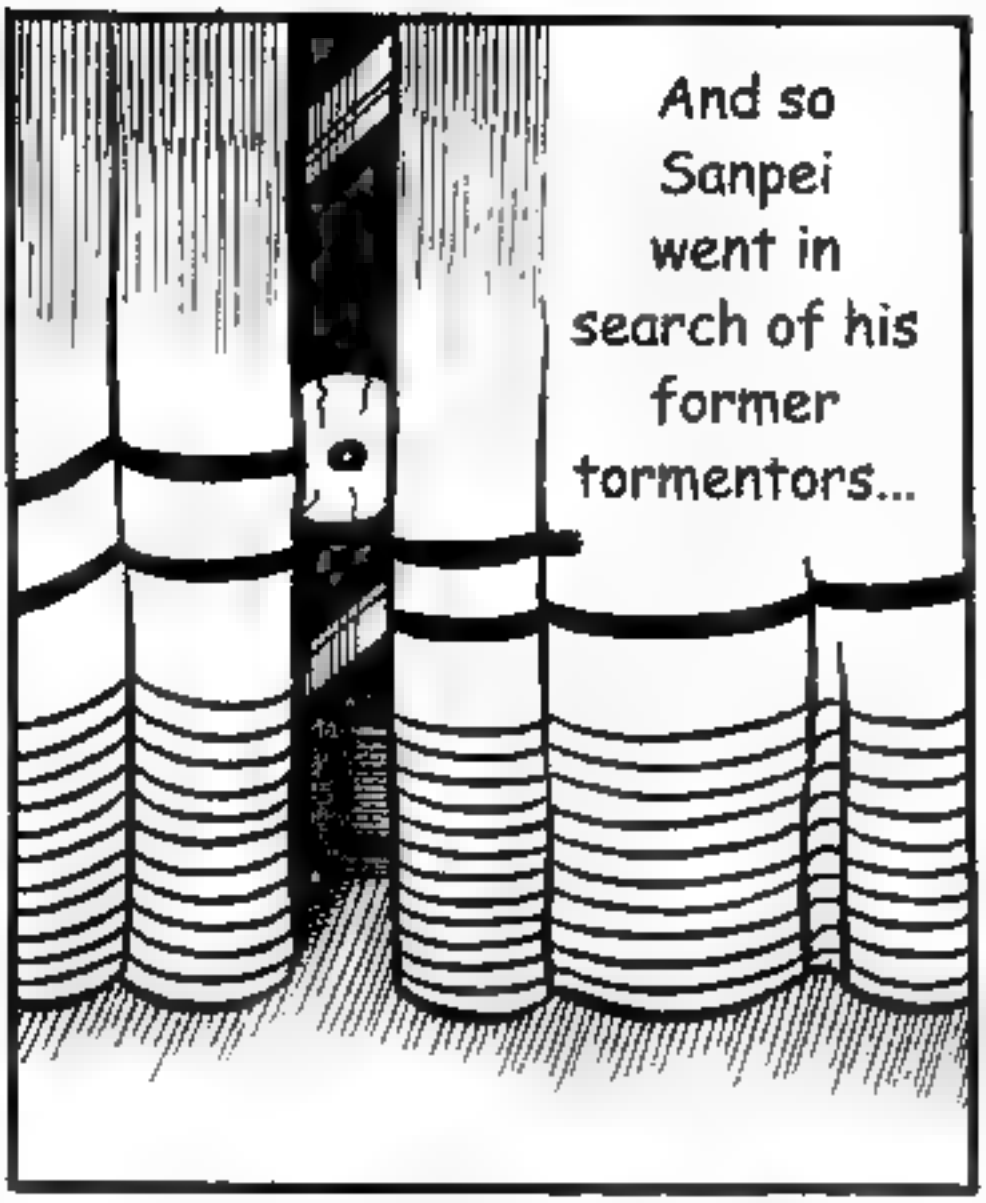
It's
PAY BACK
TIME!!!

That's it!!
Everyone who's
ever pushed me
around... they're
gonna
taste my
poison!!!


And first on my list...
Are those boys that used to bully me everyday!!

Monster of Revenge




And so Sanpei went in search of his former tormentors...

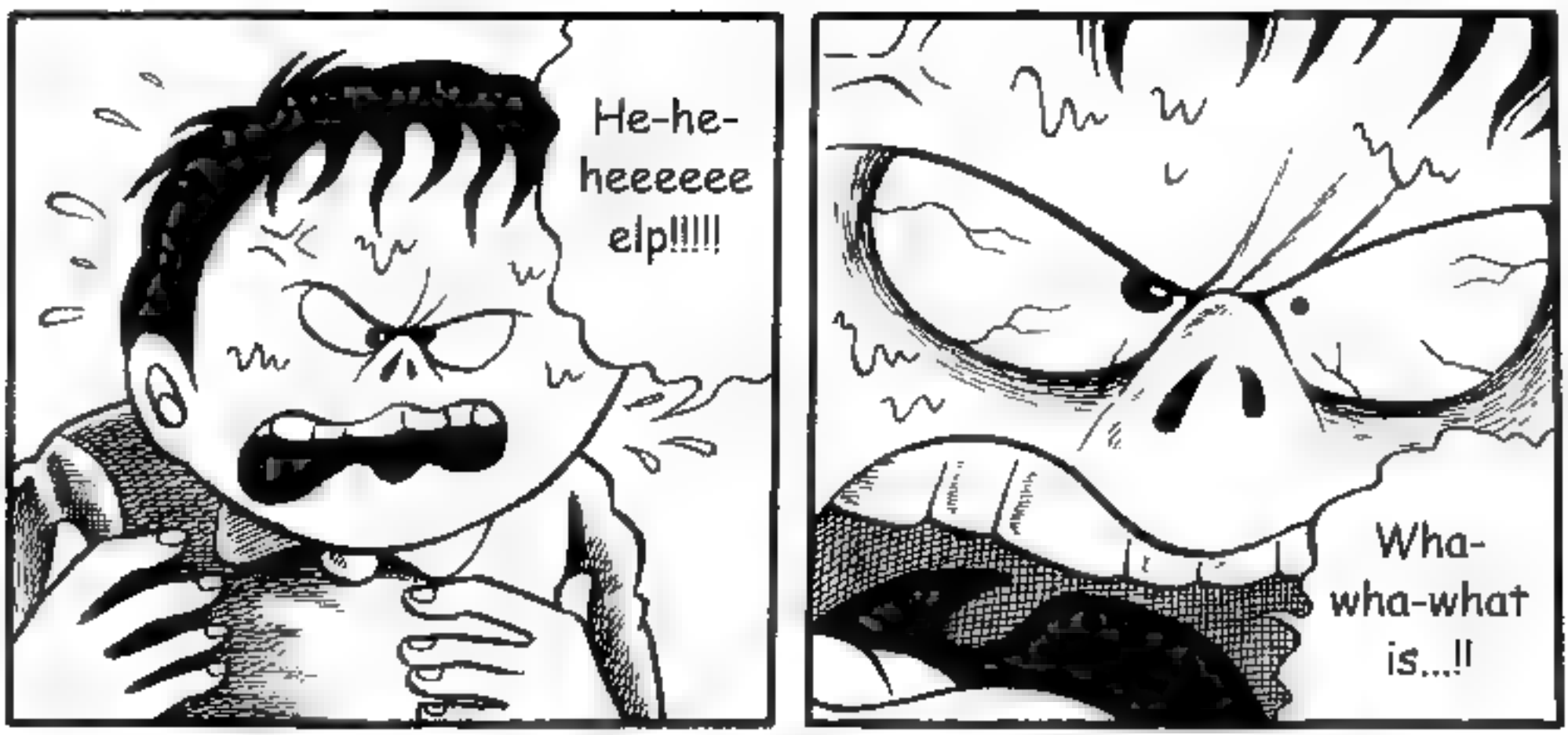
aaaaaaa... I've had enough of homework. Think I'll hit the sack.

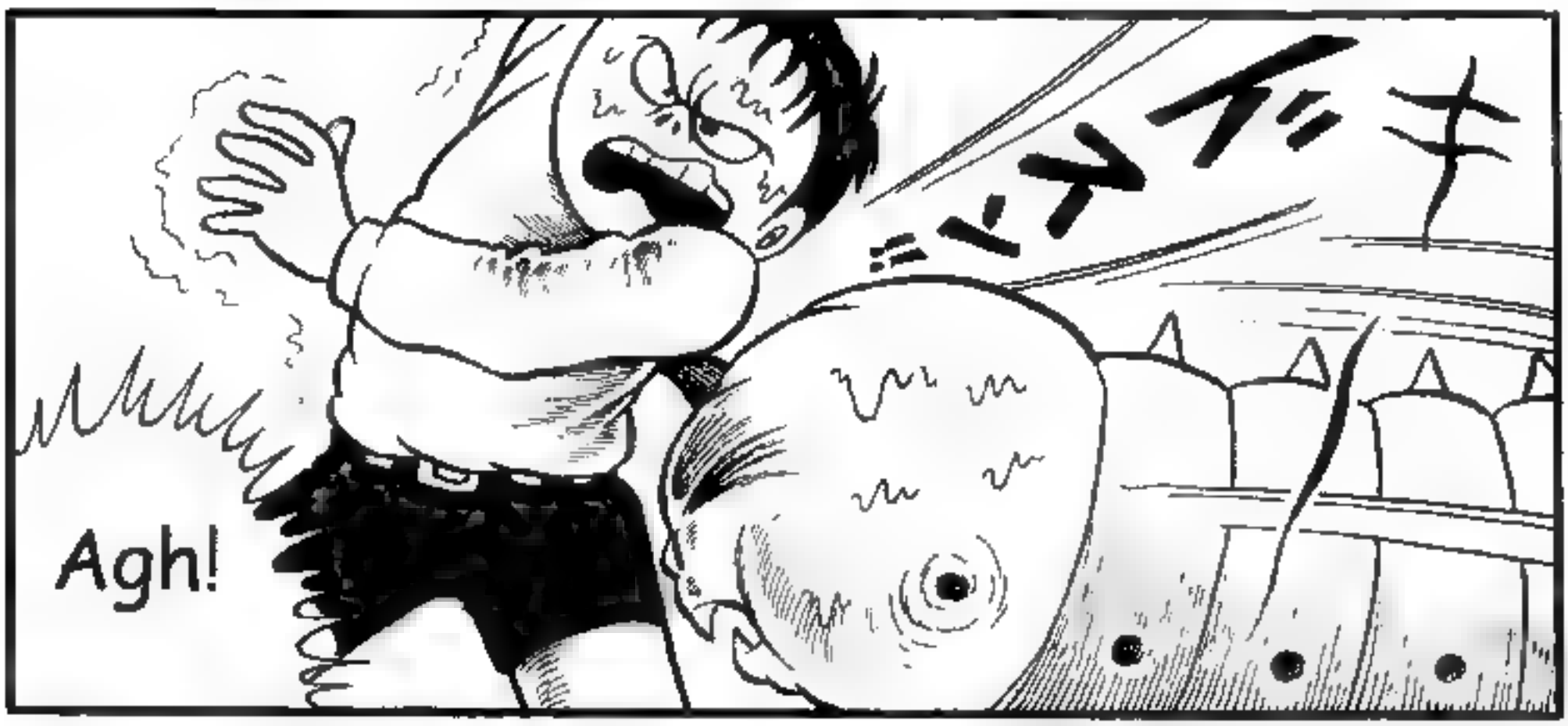
Whoooaaa!!

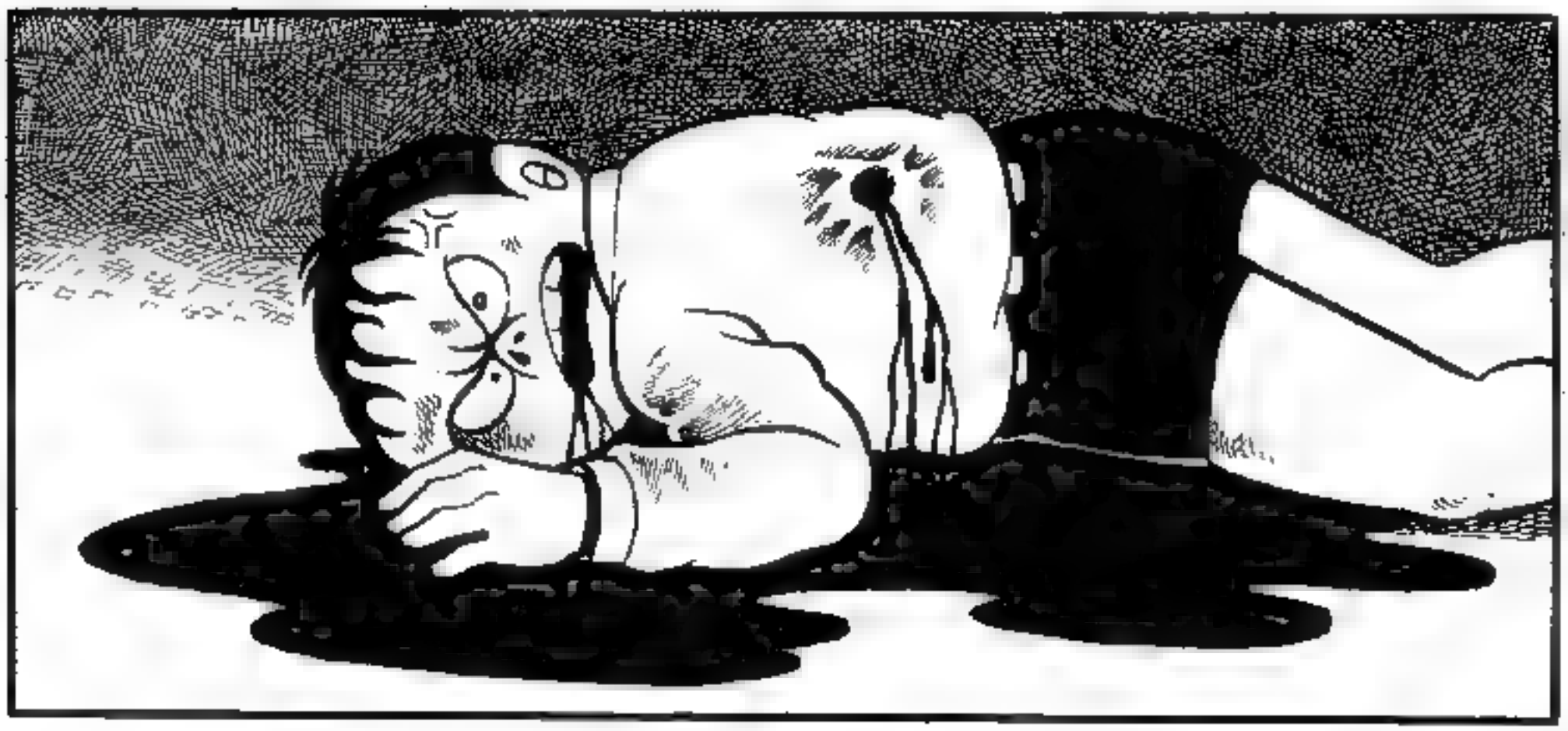
Er!!

Aaaaah!!....

ugh...


He-he-
heeeeee
elp!!!!!
Wha-
wha-what
is...!!


Agh!



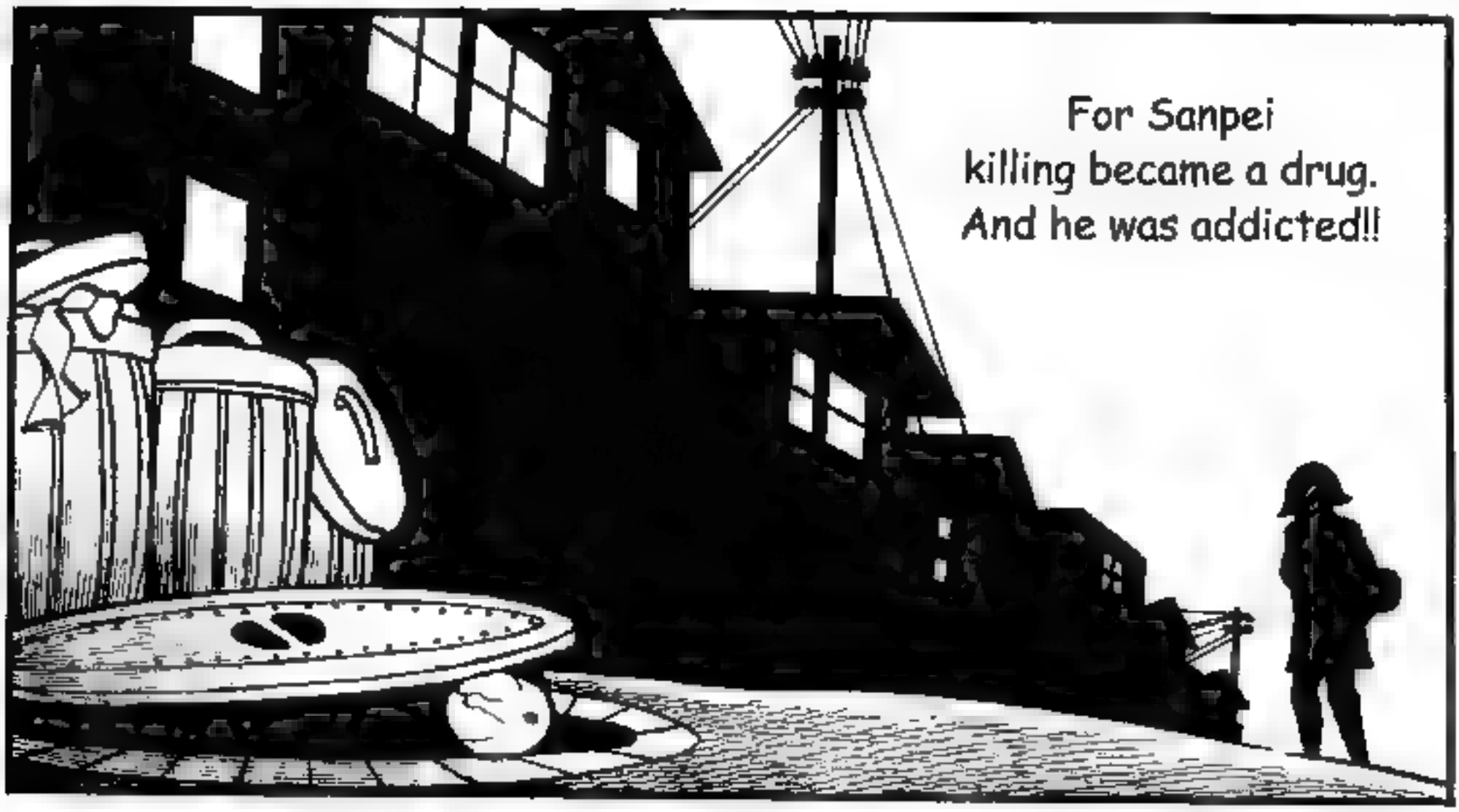
Sanpei
picked off his
enemies
one by one.....

And soon found that murder itself...
...was more gratifying than simple revenge...

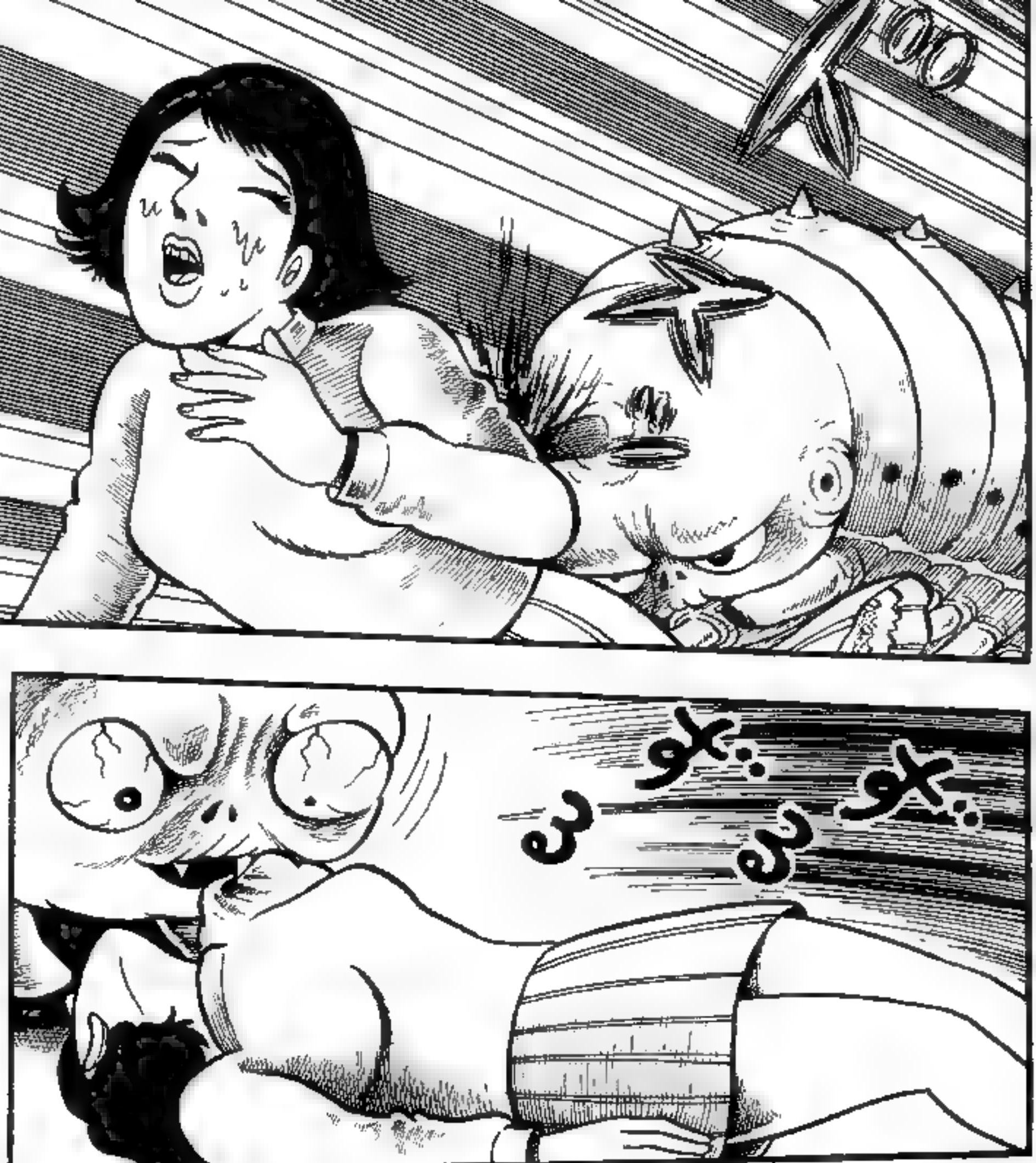
Die, you stupid humans...!!

Each time I murder...

I want more...!!


For Sanpei
killing became a drug.
And he was addicted!!

N-n-n-
nooooooo...!!


بيكو بيكو بيكو

He dragged his victims back to his lair in the sewer.

Another stupid human being....!!!

Go to hell, bitch!!!

Hee hee...

Before very long Sanpei had evolved from a harmless bug to a murderous monster.....

Eventually a mountain of corpses filled the sewer.....

The Fateful Shot

"Killer Bug Strikes Again!!"

There's no doubt about it, that's Sanpei alright.....

If so, we should all start worrying...

So that means he's still alive....

But...but I thought he was dead...
He can't be thinking like a human being anymore.

That's right!! And we'll probably be his next victims!!

And it was us who tried to kill him....

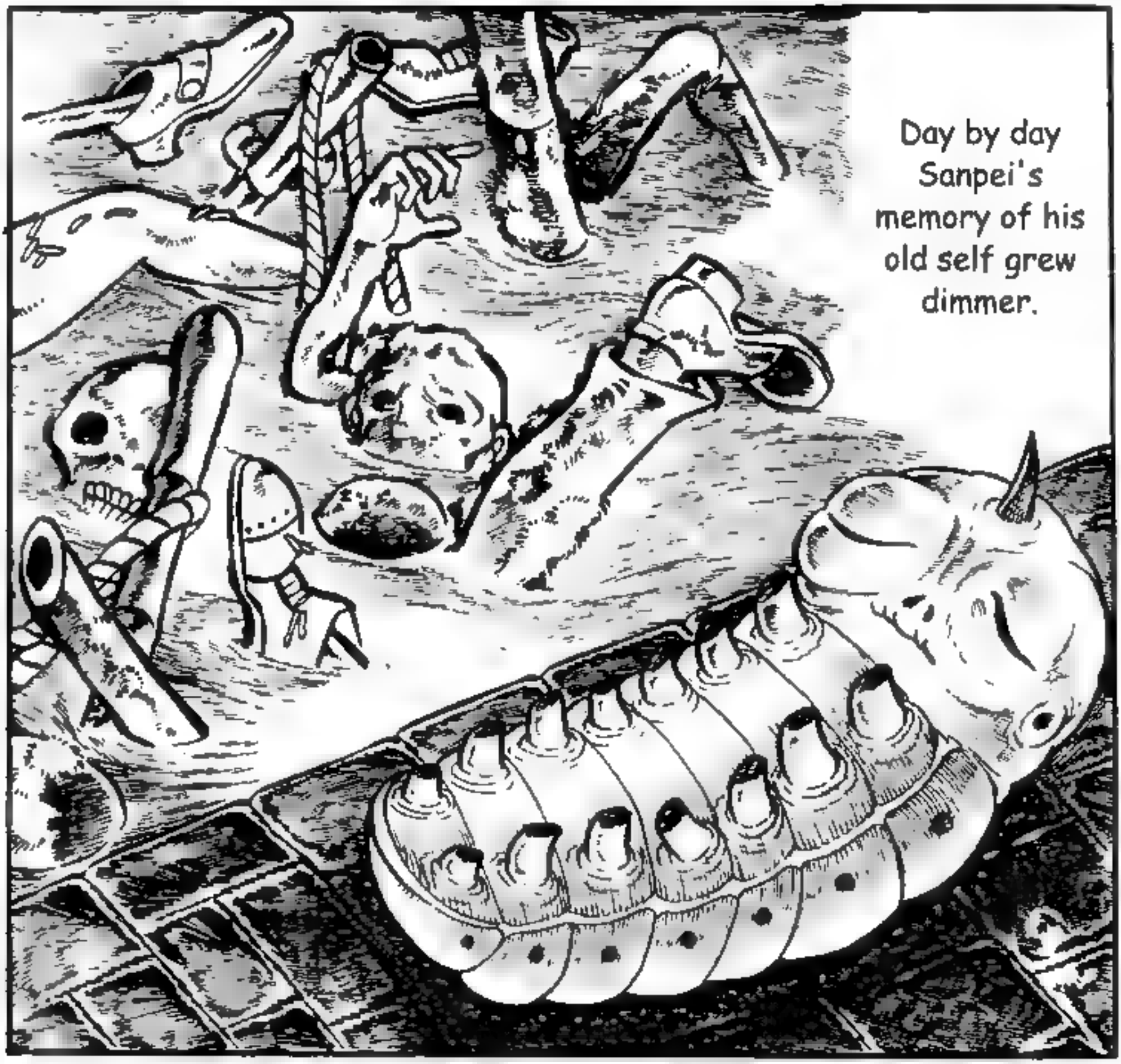
Take it easy, all of you... I've got an idea.....

Tha-tha-that's right..!! What are we going to do?!!

Under here is where I keep my gun. It's always loaded. So if he comes...

But I m his father and its my duty... for our sakes and his.

If he goes on like this the police are sure to kill him


Day by day Sanpei's memory of his old self grew dimmer.

And eventually he forgot that he was ever a human being.

Y'can all go to hell!!! Hic!

And each night he went out to kill with no feeling of remorse or undertsanding of the wrong he was doing.

Eh! Ain't I seen you some place before... Burp!

Sanpei was no longer human.

There was poison in his body, and poison in his soul.

Guwaa aa!!

And then one day fate caught up with him.

As usual Sanpei was playing with his collection of corpses and ripping off choice chunks of flesh to eat...

...when over the stench of dead bodies he caught a whiff of a something altogether different...

There was something strangely familiar about it...

What is that smell? I'm sure I know it from somewhere...

ワワ

It's coming from here...

The scent had an hypnotic affect on Sanpei, beckoning him to follow.

ワンワン

It's getting stronger and stronger...

ぼ"こ"

もこもこ

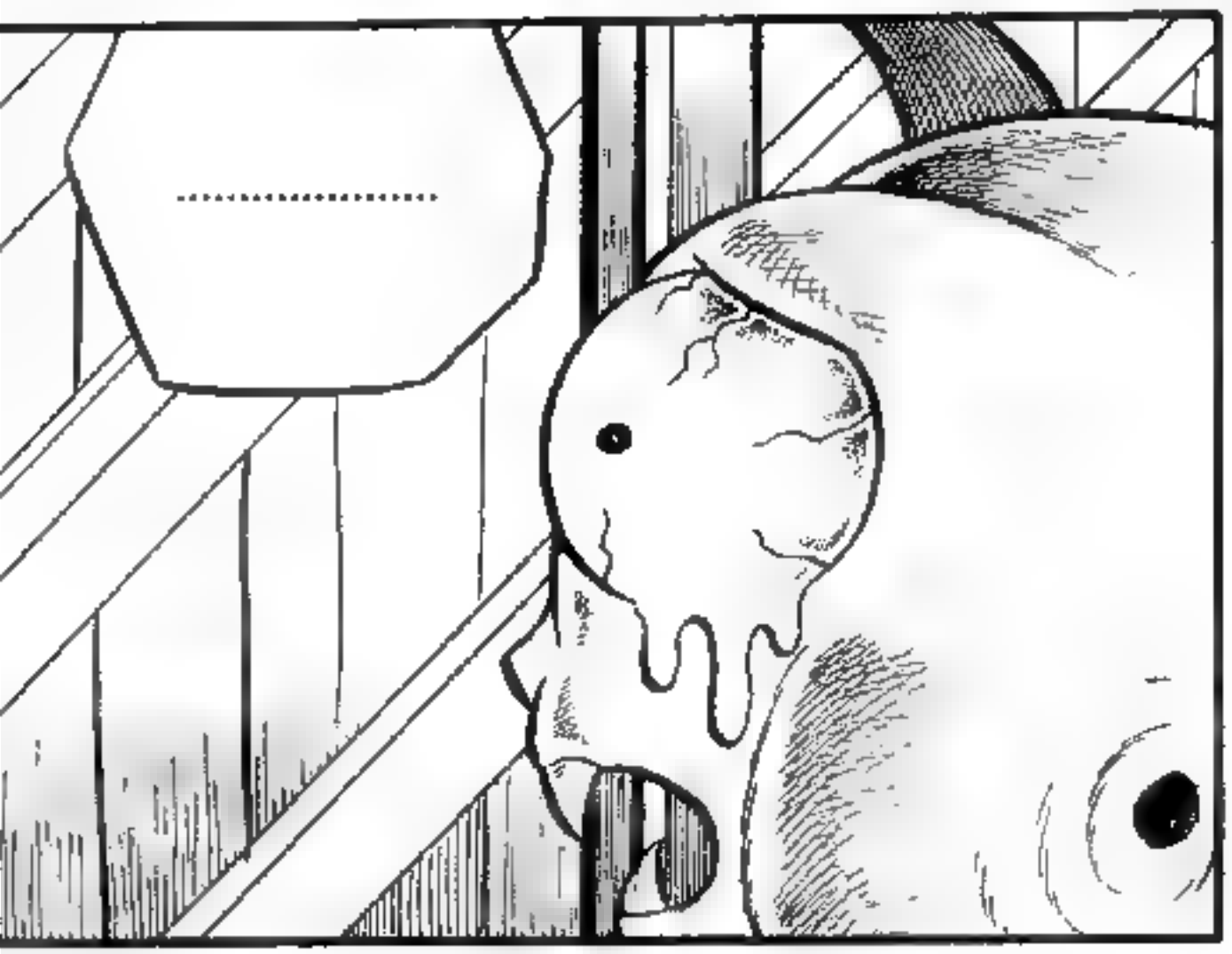
Ah!!
What is this place...?

I've never been here before...but... why do I feel like I have...?

The strange smell is coming from this house...

There's something here... I'm sure of it...

And why do I feel so sad...?



When Sanpei looked inside the house a wave of emotion rose inside him and tears rushed to his eyes...

It's him...

Did you here something...?!!!

I will...
I will...

Please dear, be careful!!

Eh!

Get outta here you filthy creature!!! Die, damn you, die!!

Sanpei had no idea what happened next...

Half-crazed with pain he managed to slip into his hole and escape.

That's it!! He'll never come back now...

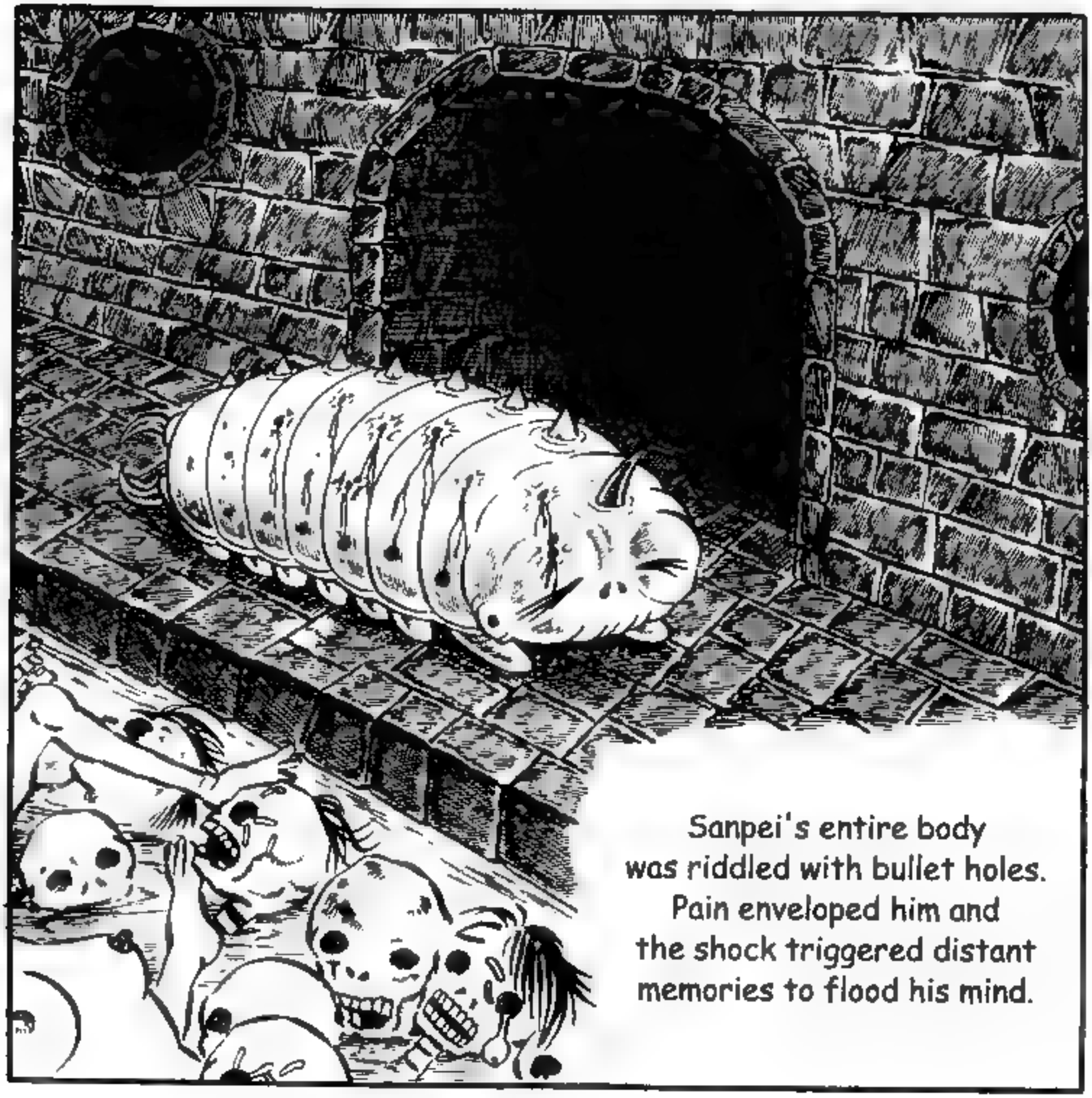
That's done it!!

Dad...!!

Oh... my...

We're saved!!

Return to the Sea


Sanpei's entire body
was riddled with bullet holes.
Pain enveloped him and
the shock triggered distant
memories to flood his mind.

That house was where I grew up... that's why I felt so sad there...

I remember now. I was once human... my name... was Sanpei...

Everything was so much better back then...

Over the pain rose memories of his past. Like images flickering from a magic lantern Sanpei saw his childhood pass before him and vanish...

That man who tried to kill me was my own father...

I wasn't born the way I am now...

Dad always took me places like the zoo...

Tiger

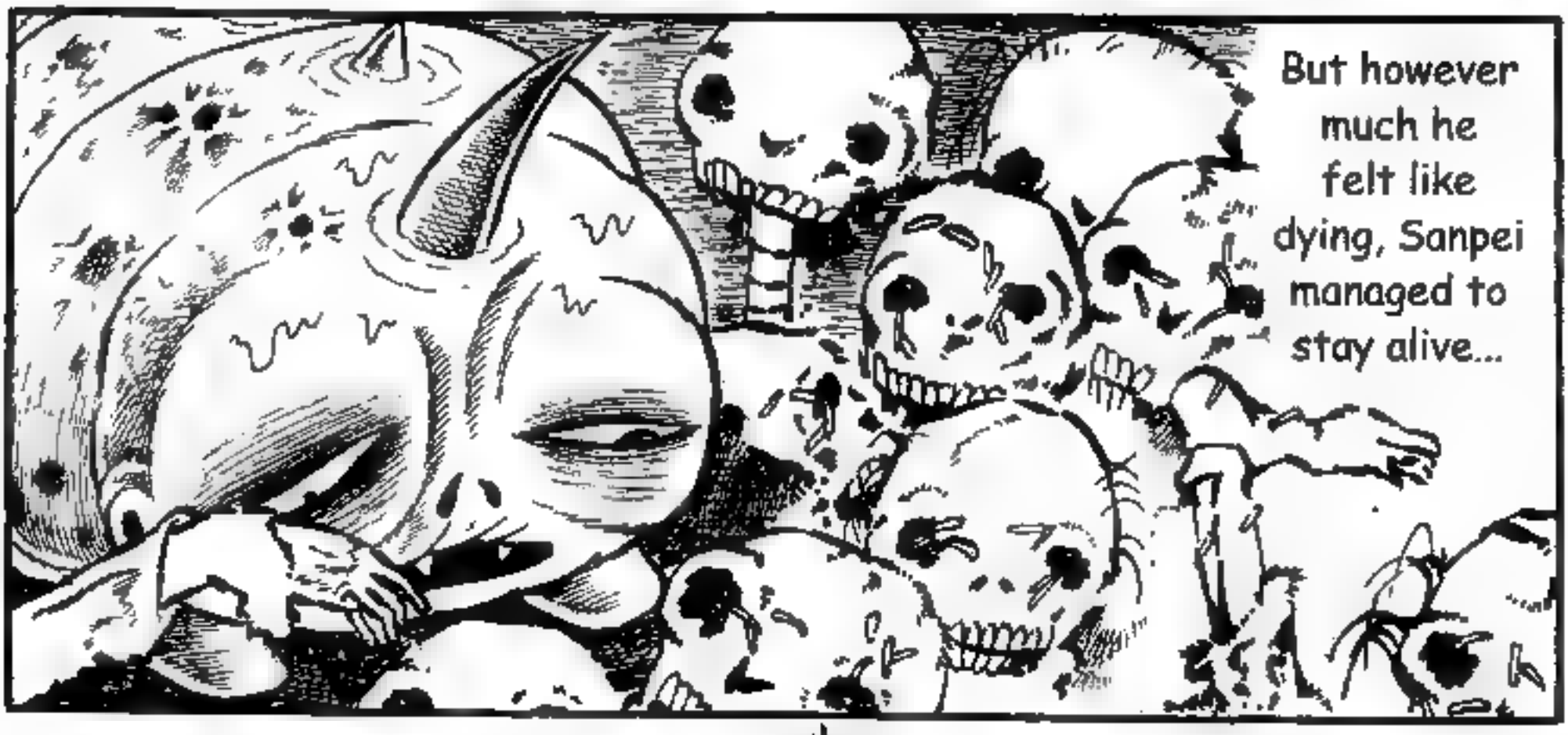
Mama was always so sweet and kind...

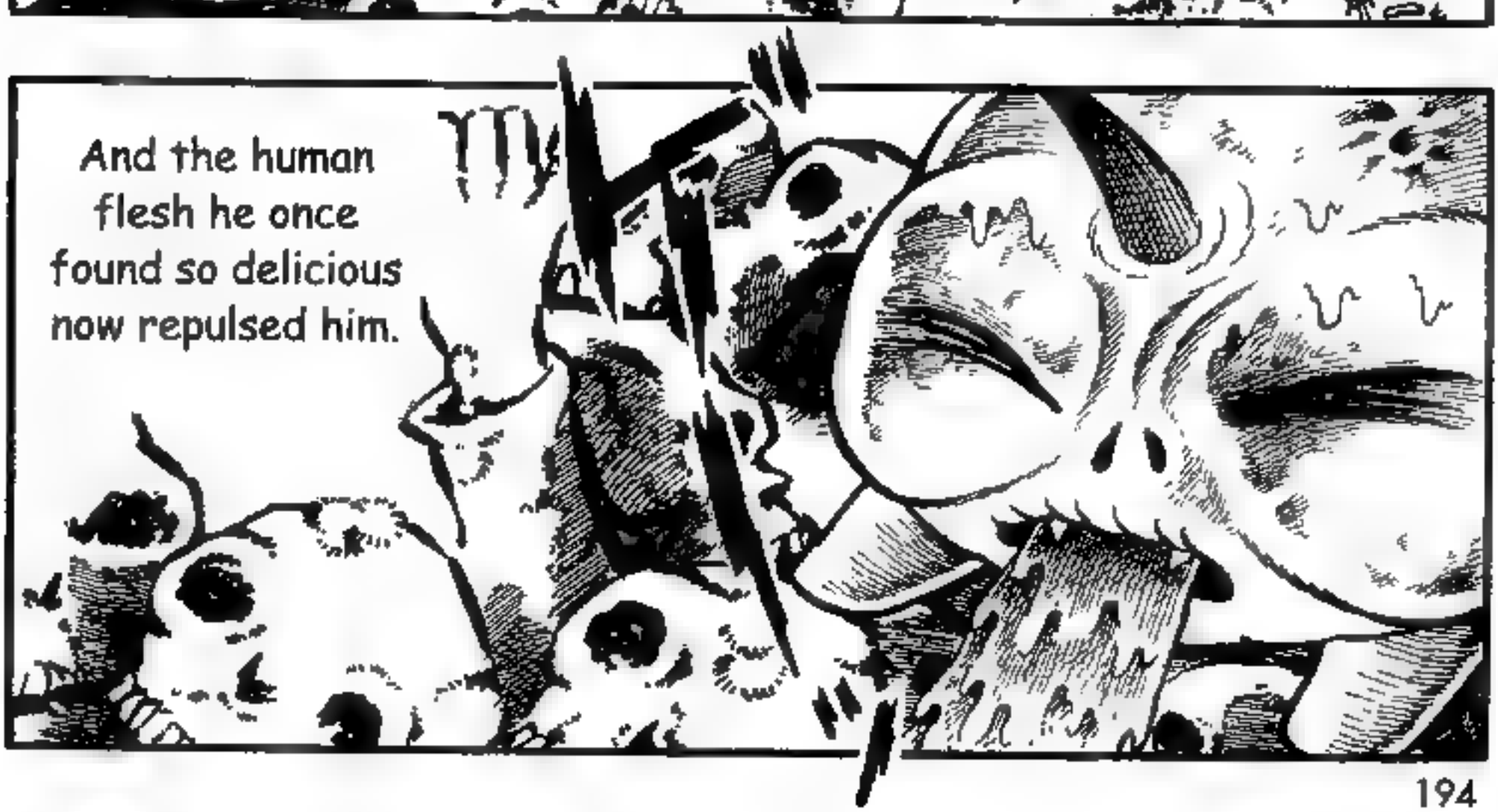
And his brother and sister were always there to play with him...

When did everything start going wrong...?

The past is over. It doesn't matter anymore. I know that soon I'll be dead...

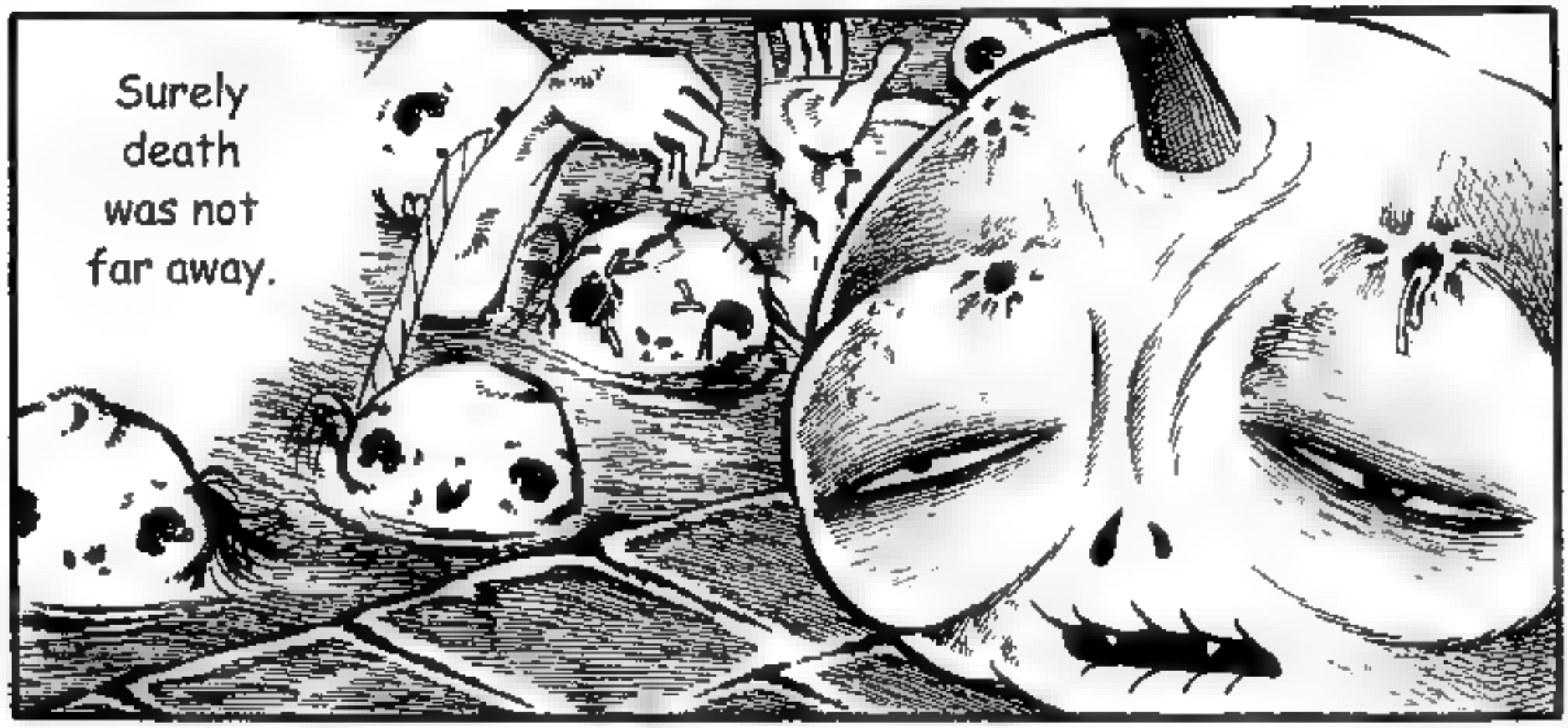
Days and nights of torturous pain and high fever passed...


But however much he felt like dying, Sanpei managed to stay alive...

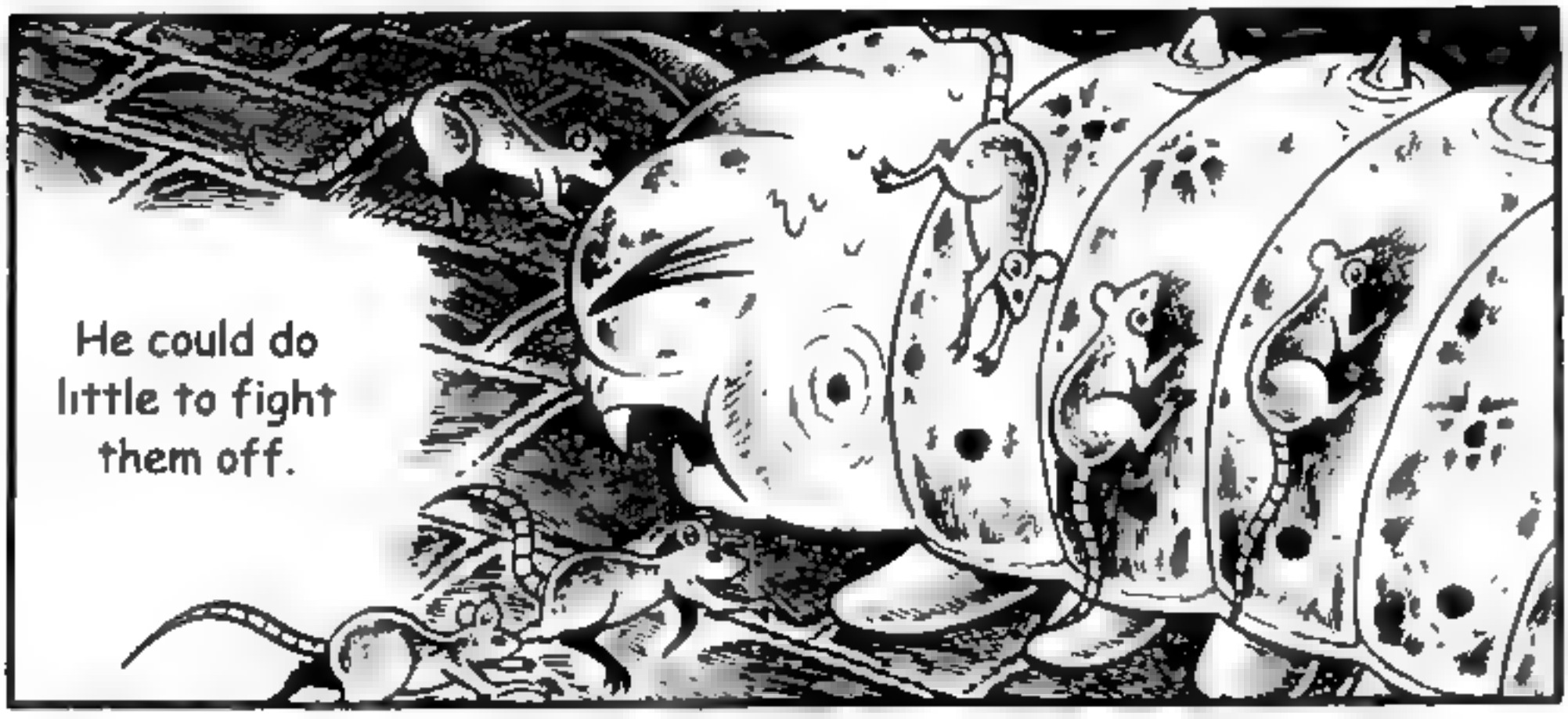

And the human flesh he once found so delicious now repulsed him.

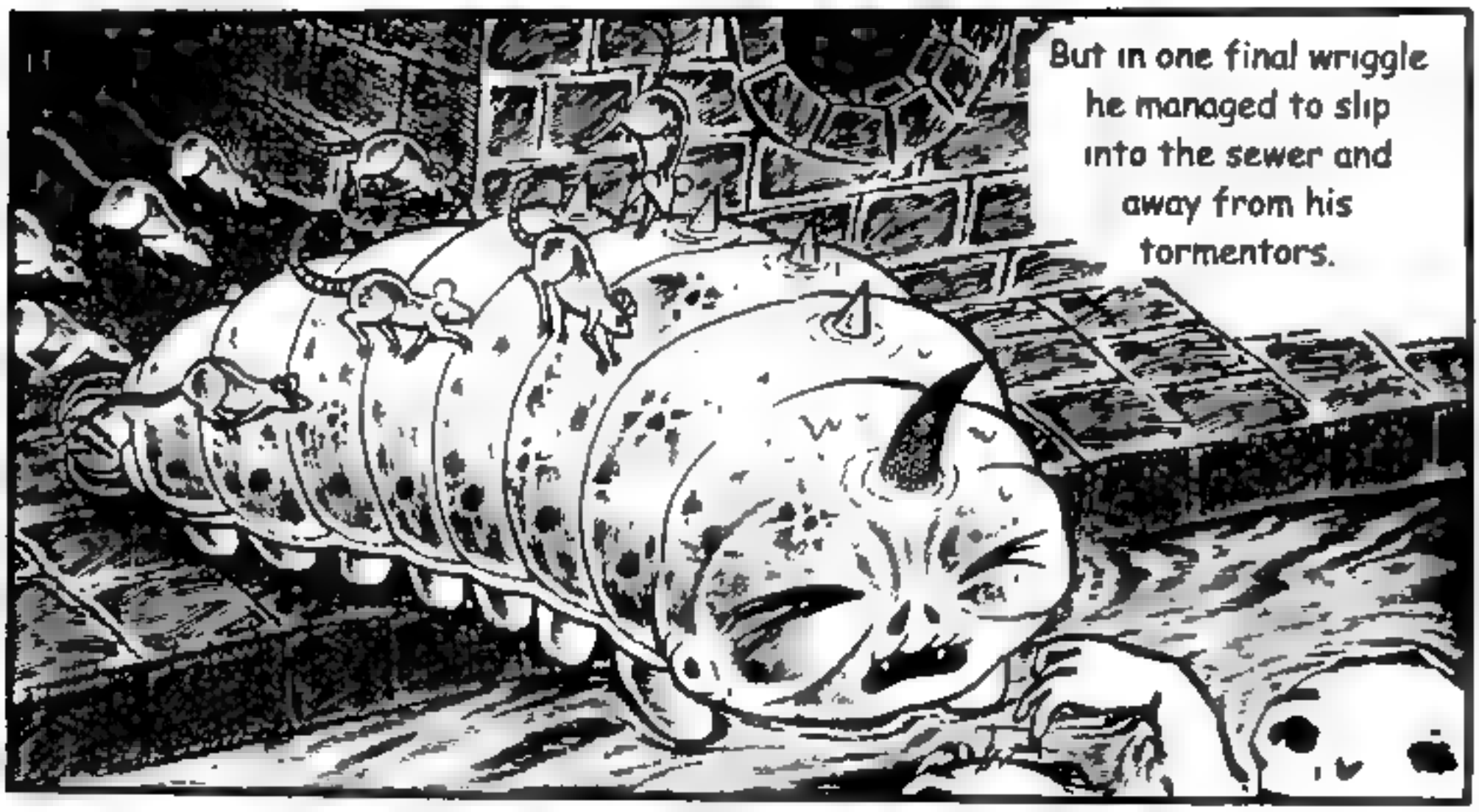
He grew weaker and weaker.

Eventually his wounds became infected and puss oozed from them.


Surely death was not far away.

And then, without warning, a swarm of ravenous rats appeared and leapt all over him biting into his flesh.


He could do little to fight them off.

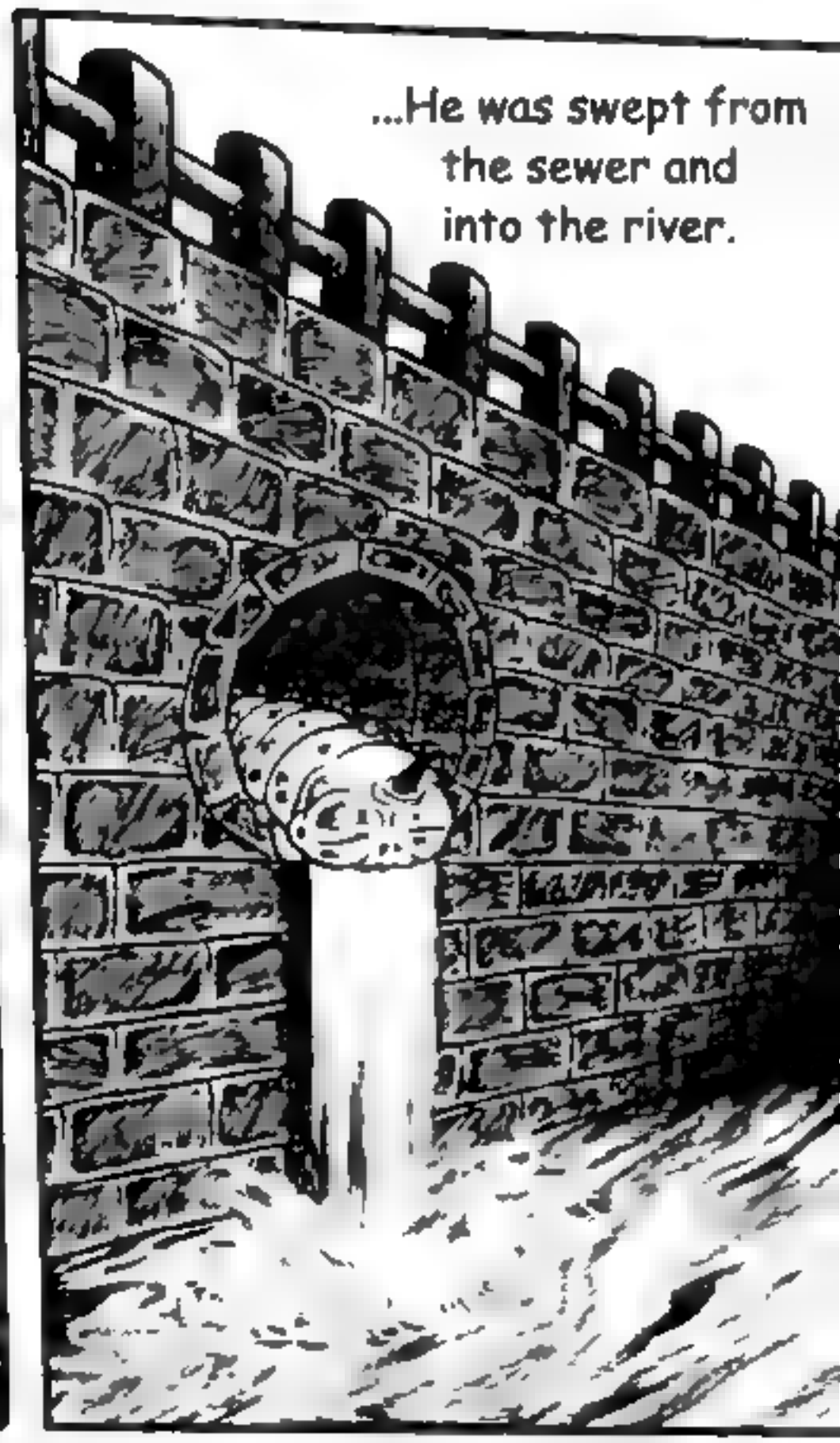

But in one final wriggle he managed to slip into the sewer and away from his tormentors.

In the cold dirty water
Sanpei's pain and fever
gradually subsided.

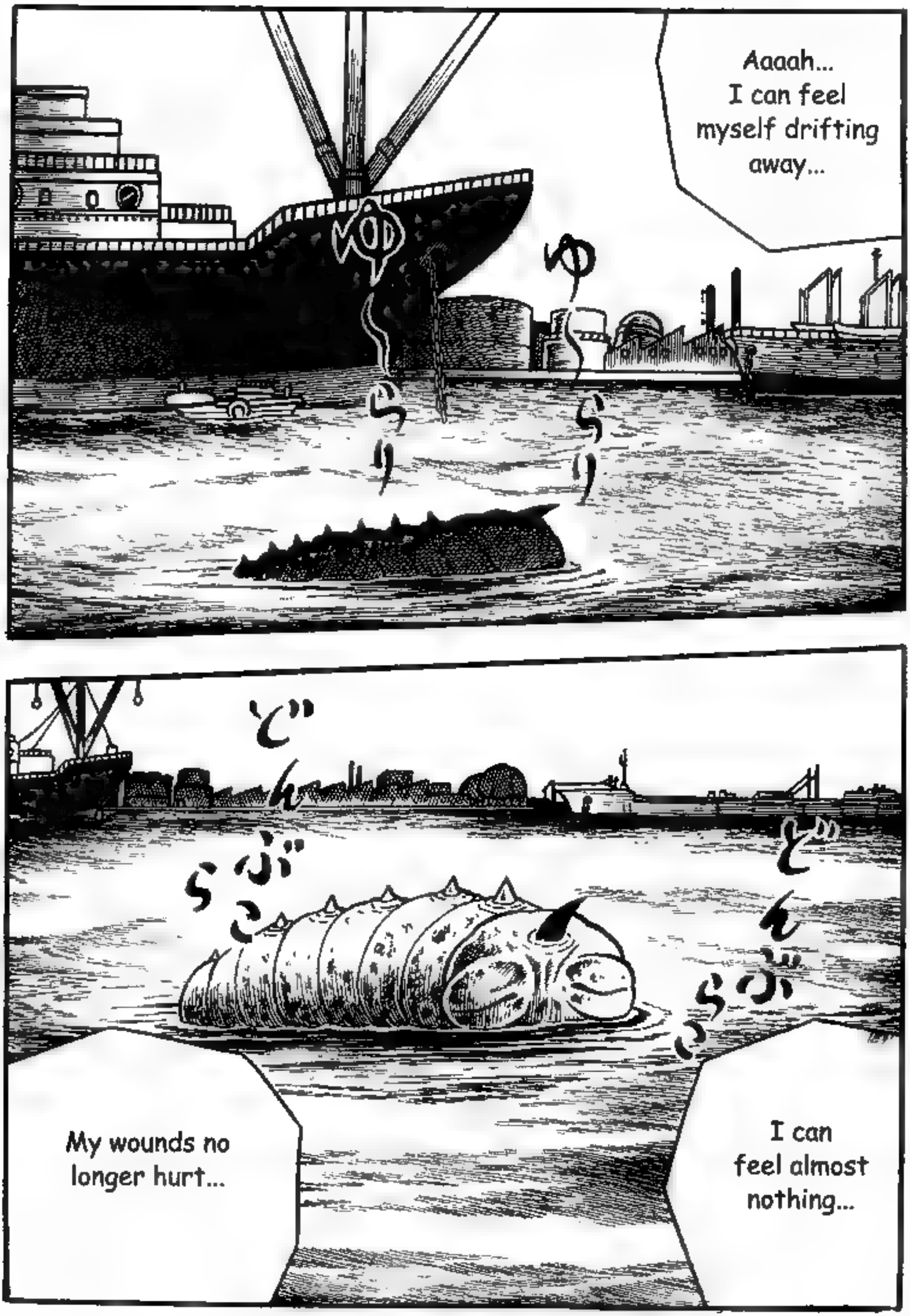
He drifted in and out of
consciousness.

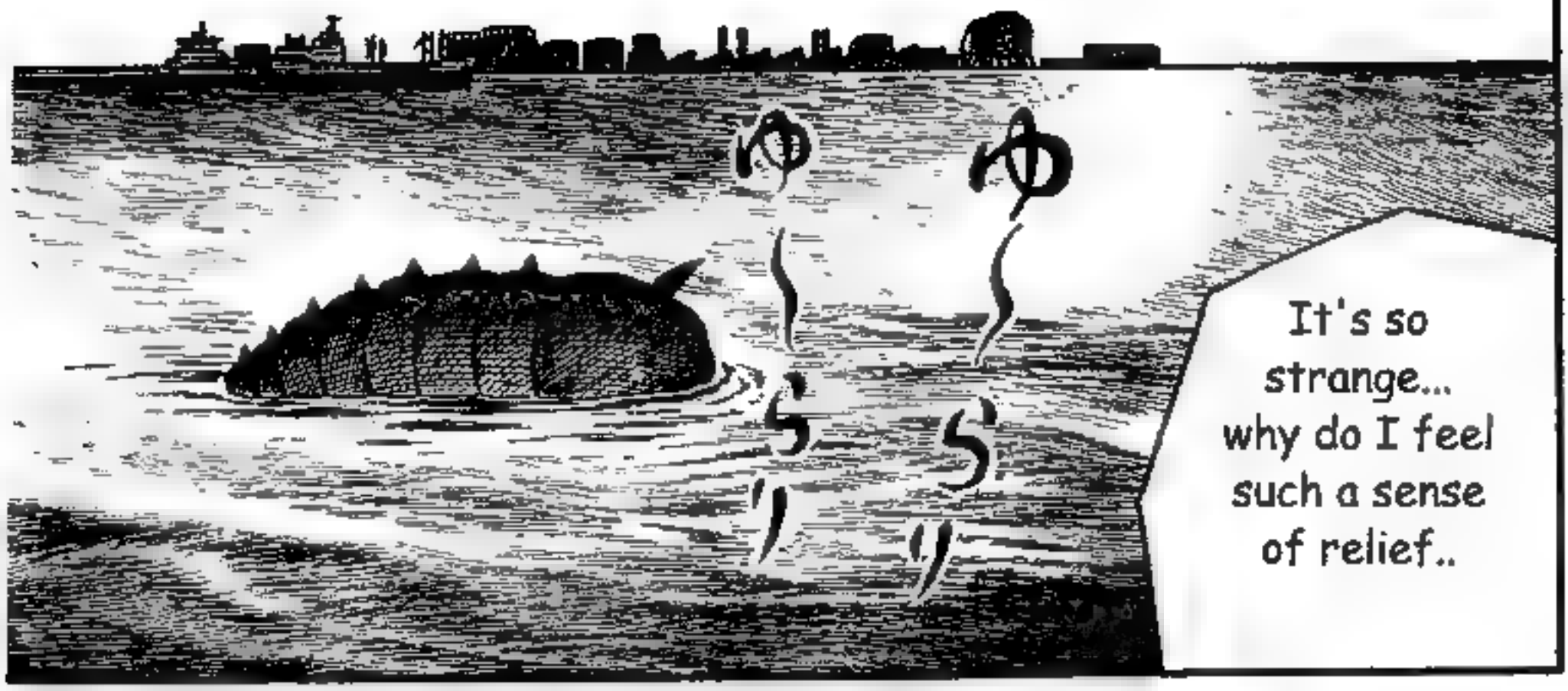
Through the darkness he floated,
the current carrying him
closer and closer to a river.

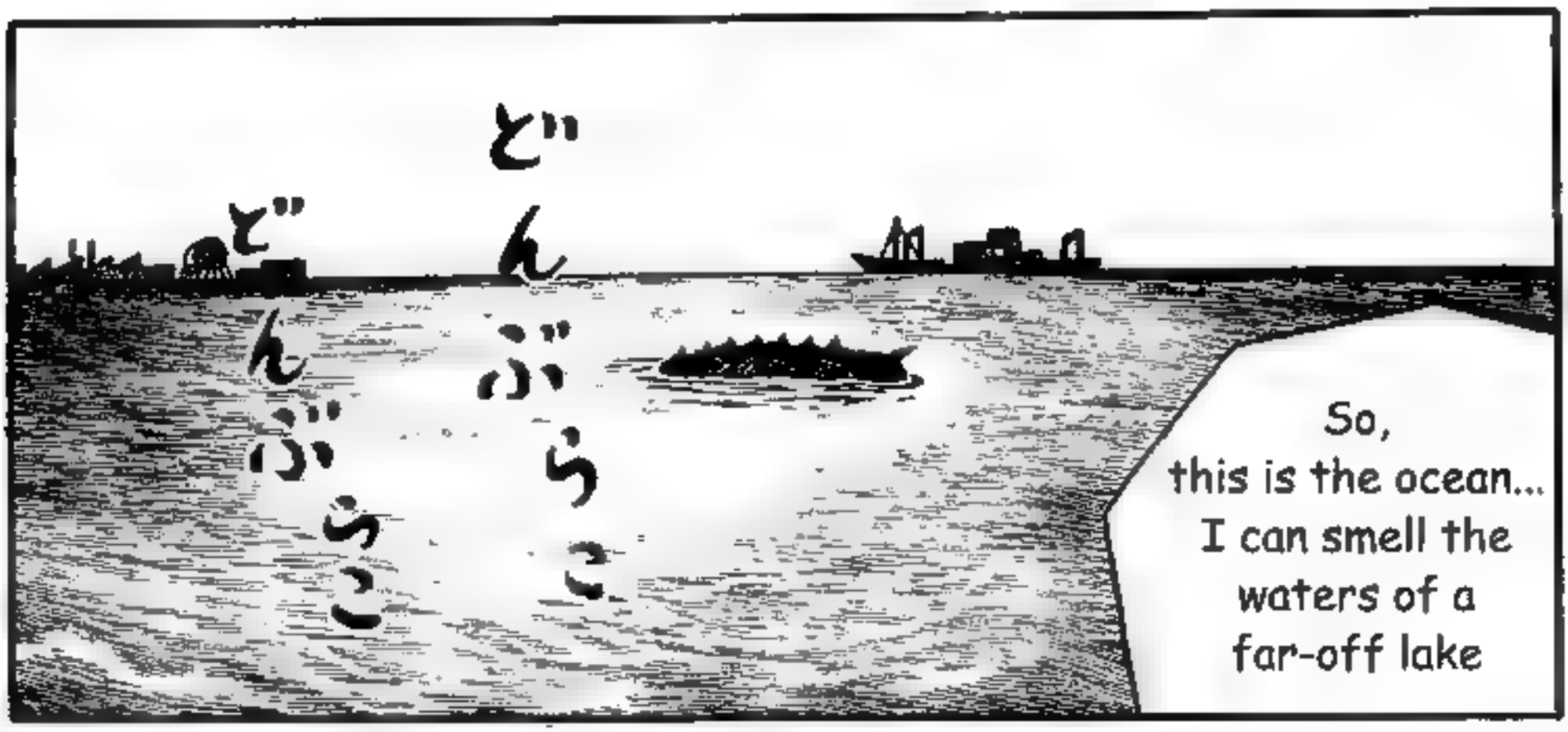
And finally...

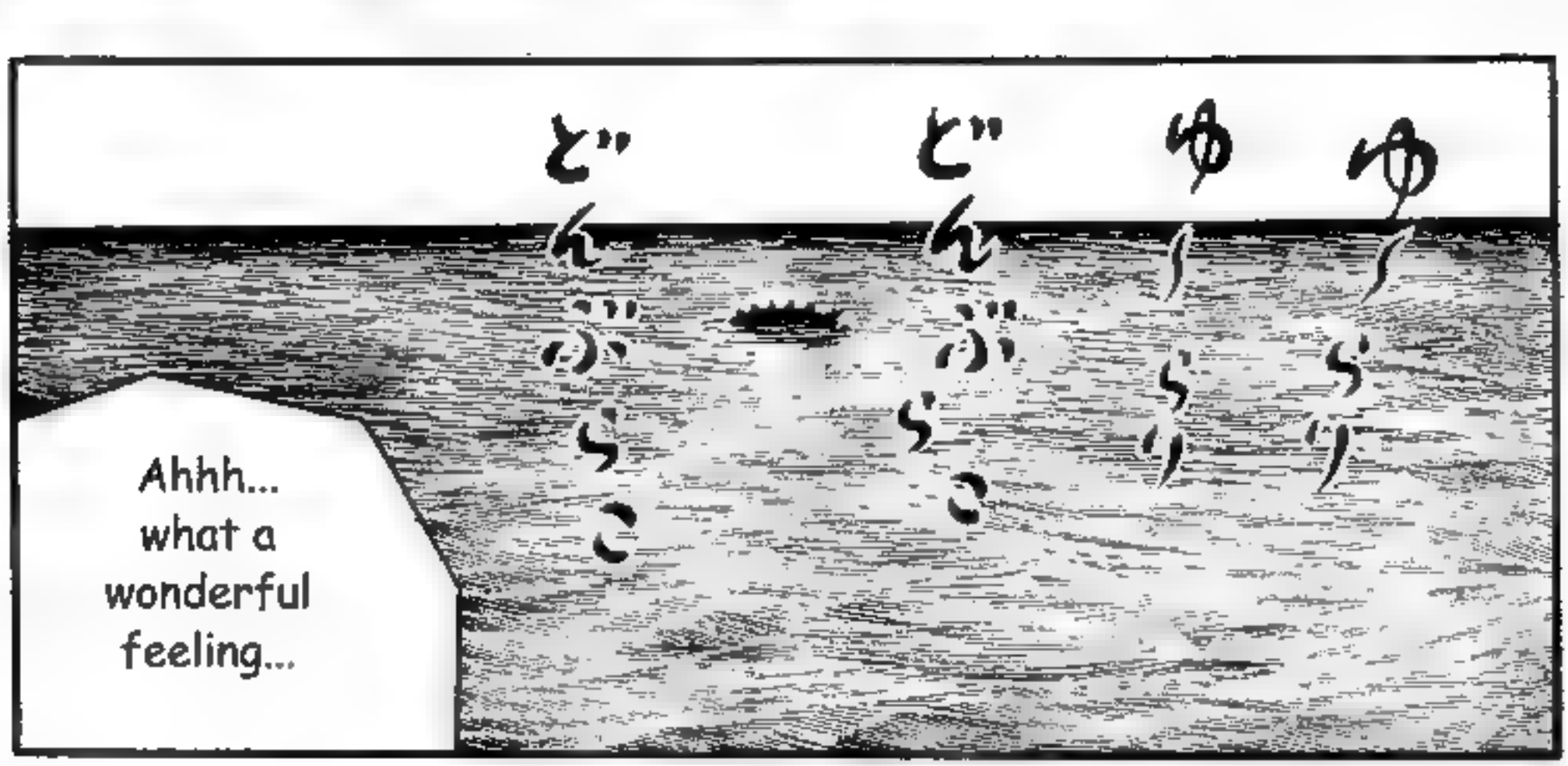

...He was swept from the sewer and into the river.

As he neared the ocean he became less and less aware of his pain.


Aaaah...
I can feel myself drifting away...
MOD
My wounds no longer hurt...
I can feel almost nothing...


It's so strange... why do I feel such a sense of relief..


So, this is the ocean... I can smell the waters of a far-off lake


Ahhh... what a wonderful feeling...

Nothing...
There is...

...nothing
more...

ゆらり

ゆーらりこ

どんぶらこ

どんぶらこ

And with that, Sanpei vanished into the setting sun.

THE END

Master of horror Hideshi Hino is best known for his semi-autobiographical work, "Panorama of Hell". He has over 200 titles in print, and cites his post-war childhood memories as a major influence on his work. He lives with his wife in the suburbs of Tokyo.

To find out more about Japan's master of horror manga visit:

http://www.dhp-online.com